



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News and Views

## Pastoral Perspective



What is prayer?  
Prayer is not some kind of white magic. It is not an attempt to control God. It is neither a self-induced pep session, nor a demand note. Prayer is need finding a voice. It is guilt seeking relief. It is a friend in search of a Friend. Prayer is the expression of a

relationship. Prayer is a way of practicing the presence of God.

In a very real sense, human beings are alive to what is in their awareness, to what they are in the presence of. To live in the awareness of God is to be alive to Him. It is to live in the cathedral of His presence. Each of us can practice the presence of God in prayer. Prayer is not merely something that one recites by rote in the morning, or at mealtime, or at bedtime, or at church. It is not to be so much scripted as a personal sharing from heart to heart. This sharing happens in different ways.

There are prayers in which we praise our Father by acknowledging His goodness. With the Psalmist we pray:

"You are good, Lord" (Psalm 25:7 NCV)

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good" (Psalm 85:5 NIV)

In prayer we tell our "forgiving and good" Father how much we know we need His help when, in pain and guilt we acknowledge that we have sinned against His will, violated His commands, delayed the fulfillment of His plans, and worked against our own true welfare. This type of prayer is an acknowledgement of our sins and an expression of our craving for forgiveness. We turn to God in penitential prayer. Then, in Jesus Christ, we come to know the joy of having been forgiven, accepted anew, and loved by the One whose forgiveness, acceptance and love are crucial to our lives.

There are also prayers in which we lift up our needs and the needs of others to our Father. This is the kind of prayer that is most often associated with the word "prayer". Such prayer flows spontaneously from the heart, at least from the heart that is overcome with the challenges of life and has compassion on others who so need God's help. Martin Luther's fellow reformer, Philip Melancthon, said with regard to such prayers, "Trouble and perplexity drive us to prayer, and prayer drives away trouble and perplexity."

We must not lose heart if we do not seem to get an immediate expected response to our prayers of request. Prayer is, after all, not a demand note. It is rather practicing the presence of God, letting His presence and power work in our lives and

situations. By practicing the presence of God, we learn our total dependence on God. We learn to look to God, not for favors, but for the power of His love to be active in any given situation. Our relationship with God grows through the persistent practice of prayer.

By faith in Jesus Christ, we are equipped to bring our prayers to God in the full confidence that He will hear and answer us. Prayer is our way of practicing the presence of God. It is communicating in a very personal and intimate way with the God who is our loving Father. For the privilege of prayer, we truly give thanks, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl



## OUTREACH LUNCHEON

Please join us for a fun Saturday Luncheon.

Date: August 10th, 2019  
Location: Sizzler Restaurant, 6009 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA  
Time: 11:00AM

Cost: Each person and/or couple will pay for their meal at the front counter.



## PLANNING MEETING

The Fall Festival is just around the corner and we are going to begin the planning for the event after worship on Sunday, August 18, in room 3. If you are interested in participating, but unable to attend the planning meeting just let Marlene Kiser know. We look forward to you joining us for the Fall Festival so mark your calendars for Saturday, October 5th 8:00am-2:00pm.



Hear ye, hear ye! COMMUNITY CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETINGS are being changed from 4th Thursday to 2nd Thursday effective August. Please come and join us to talk about this year's Trunk or Treat, and our school backpacks. 7 PM, church office.

We will be stuffing backpacks on August 4th after service. Here is a list of items we still need:

### Items for Students:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Binders            | Spiral Notebooks |
| Color pencils      | Paint sets       |
| Crayons            | Wide ruled paper |
| Erasers            | Pens             |
| Glue               | Sharpeners       |
| Glue sticks        | Rulers           |
| Highlighters       | Scissors         |
| Markers (washable) |                  |

### Items for the classroom:

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Kleenex     | Dry erase markers   |
| Color paper | Reams of copy paper |

## SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Following the 10:30am service, everyone is invited to come to the courtyard for great food, fellowship and the Sunday School art show. More details to follow in the September News & Views.

# Women of the ELCA

Our next W-ELCA gathering will be an off-site luncheon on Saturday September 14th, 2019, at Chicago Fire at 7101 Laguna Blvd, Elk Grove. For those needing a ride we will meet at the church at 11:00 am, and then head over to the restaurant. For those not needing a ride we will be at the restaurant. Be sure to watch for a signup sheet on the opportunity table in August, please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you will be needing a ride.

Mission for the month will be for Chicks in Crisis: needs include Baby, maternity and kitchen items.

Yours in Christ,  
Marlene Kiser,  
WELCA President



## LUAU "FUNRAISER"

The annual Worship and Music Luau will be Saturday evening, September 21 with fantastic food, fun activities, fabulous entertainment and the dessert auction. You and

your family and friends can bid on delicious desserts to share at your table or take home. We will have a Hawaiian apparel contest so dress for success in your most striking tropical wear.

Entertainment will be provided by the chancel choir and the bell choir. The bell choir has a special surprise planned this year that you won't want to miss. Tickets are \$5 for children 3 to 12, \$15 for 13 and up. Children under 3 are free. Tickets will be available in August. Be sure to bring them for check-in to be eligible to win the door prize.

Last year was our most successful Luau ever because we had so much wonderful help from the congregation with decorating, cooking, activities and, of course, clean up. If you can help again this year, there will be a planning meeting after church Sunday, July 28.

## 20TH ANNUAL FIREWORKS SALE ... and on the 8th day, they rested ...



Wow, 20 years and still going strong! We were blest with an abundance of goodwill and fellowship again this year – and Great Weather again – no days above 93 degrees!

There was the usual cadre of volunteers who helped out by providing food, water, snacks, drinks, other tangible or monetary donations, selling or buying fireworks, setting up or taking down the booth, or who spread the word to family and friends to stop on by and visit us. We all had a great time!

On the sales side, we were just over \$24,550 in sales. Better than last year, but still a little below our normal average sales. After paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, assorted sundries, and permits), we'll put over \$8,050 in the bank to help the Property Board with the work they do here in keeping the church facilities in tip-top shape! Of that total, 10% will go to the Community Concerns Board to be shared for benevolence.

A loud shout-out goes to all the wonderful folks who brought us food this year. We had great pizza, fried chicken, salads, fruit, brownies, cookies, popcorn, chips, and other snacks.

We always have a great time working at the booth because it's always nice to meet the new faces, welcome our returning customers, and to watch the excitement in the kids' faces. That's the best part, the fellowship and fun we share with our neighbors and friends.

And finally, an extra shout-out to my faithful team of volunteers (Dorothy, Ron, Pat, Peggy, Al, Carol, Karen, Jack, Micki, Bruce, Karen, Marlene, Paul, Pastor Carl, Holly, Ed, Kirsten, Bob, Carolyn, Connie, Kelly, Frank, Jacob, Stephen, Pat, Faith, and many, many, others), who were there to assist in some way or another. Also to Pastor Carl for coming out on June 30th to provide us a special Sunday service with Communion. And finally, an extra shout-out to Phillip and Jennifer Connell who could provide a truck and trailer again to haul our

fireworks to and from the warehouse. We couldn't have done it without all of you! Thank you to all and see you next year!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter  
Fireworks Committee Chairman



|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Lois Sherrets      | August 01 |
| Lydia Toloy        | August 03 |
| Ralph Zbrog        | August 03 |
| Elsbeth Whitehurst | August 04 |
| Alexander Iniguez  | August 07 |
| Irene Boschee      | August 08 |
| Linda Duffek       | August 10 |
| Stephanie Espinoza | August 11 |
| Amber Mansfield    | August 16 |
| Kay Yakabe         | August 16 |
| Kristen Encinas    | August 18 |
| Craig Richey       | August 20 |
| Angie Martinez     | August 21 |
| Angelo Osako       | August 21 |
| Aiyana Tice        | August 22 |
| Zoe Franklin       | August 23 |
| Mack Vance         | August 23 |
| Carolyn Andrews    | August 27 |
| Jack Orcutt        | August 29 |
| Faith Thomas       | August 31 |



I hope Summer has been good to everyone. We have one last event before school is back in session. Carole Vance (Noella's grandma) has graciously invited us to use her pool for an end of Summer party! We are going to do this as our water day scheduled for Sunday the 11th of August.

We would head over to Carole's after church and our monthly meeting, so around 1 pm. Kids can be picked up from Carole's, or St. Luke's depending on parental preference. We will likely be done no later than 5p.m.

Time/Date: Sunday August 11 from 1pm to 5pm (SLY meeting prior to field trip, at noon)  
Place: Carole and Mack Vance residence (Address to be announced)  
Please RSVP via phone to (916) 271-7566 no later than Sunday August 4th.  
Permission slips needed before/ or day-of before departure

-Laura Tice



**Al & Irene Boschee**  
The Meadows Senior Living  
9325 East Stockton Blvd #144  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

# Baptisms

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. May he join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.



Benjamin Quintero

Parents: Stephanie & Luis Quintero

Sponsors: Maria & David Torres

Leah Elizabeth Torres

Parents: Maria & David Torres

Sponsors: Stephanie & Luis Quintero

Keyara Diane  
Norwood

Parents: Chelsea  
Norwood & Dylan  
Martin

Sponsors: Amy  
Rodriguez





- August 4 **Carol Carney**  
In Memory of Jerry's Birthday
- August 11 **Marlene & Duane Kiser**  
For Aiden Kiser's 6th Birthday
- August 18 **Connie Ruele**  
For Amber Mansfield's 18th Birthday
- August 25 *Needed*

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

June 2019

### Comments:

- A. In June, a substantial contribution was received, which skews this report. Without this generous gift, the monthly and Year-to-Date figures would be considerably less.
- B. June was a five-Sunday month. The Year-to-Date data provides a "mid-year check" for members and the church leadership.
- C. In July, a mid-year contribution statement will be distributed to each contributing member. If you do not receive a statement, contact me.
- D. Several members are giving their contribution "online". If you wish to give "online", access your bank's website and select "Pay Bills". You will need the address of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, which is 7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA, 95823.
- E. To assist the Sunday Counters and the Financial Secretary, please –
  - For a special contribution, clearly mark in large, bold letters how the contribution is to be used.
  - Use numbered envelopes, when feasible.
  - If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
  - When using pew envelopes, please write legibly.
- F. 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](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)

| General Fund (Only) Contributions |            |              |      |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|------|
| Data                              | This Month | Year to Date |      |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>        | \$26,018   | \$116,941    |      |
| <b>Compared to Budget</b>         | \$7,052    | \$13,496     |      |
|                                   | 37.2%      | 13.0%        |      |
| <b>Compared to 2018</b>           | \$7,567    | \$16,413     |      |
|                                   | 41.0%      | 16.3%        |      |
| No. of Contributors               |            |              |      |
| <b>2019</b><br>(Current Year)     | 80         | 80           | avg. |
| <b>2018</b><br>(Last Year)        | 89         | 86           | avg. |
| Other Special Gifts               |            |              |      |
| Sunday School                     |            | \$47         |      |
| Flowers                           |            | \$205        |      |
| Memorials                         |            | \$60         |      |

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



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
(10:30 a.m.)  
August 4 Faith Thomas, Marlene Kiser  
August 11 Shirley Prouty  
August 18 Dave Saxby, Marlene Kiser  
August 25 Ben Briel

## Communion Servers

August 4 Kelly Boyer, Linda Duffek, Betty Englund  
August 18 Mary Frances Harris,  
Kirsten Ireton, Marlene Kiser

## Counters

August 4 Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule  
August 11 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman  
August 18 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
August 25 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

August 4 Carole Johnson, Brenda Sulzmann  
August 11 Lizzy Lynch, Paul Edwards  
August 18 *Needed*  
August 25 *Needed*

## Prayer Leaders

August 4 Gail Weber  
August 11 Merle Zbrog  
August 18 Ralph Zbrog  
August 25 Bob Behr

## Psalm Leaders

August 4 Sierra Etchison  
August 11 Aiyana Tice  
August 18 Lucy Orcutt  
August 25 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.)  
August 4 Phil Petersen; Laura Tice  
August 11 Ron Webb; Pat Webb  
August 18 Christiana Wilson; Ron Webb  
August 25 Sarah Madison; Gail Weber

## Refreshments

August 4 Carol Carney & Ofelia Ojeda  
August 11 Pat Webb & Carole Vance  
August 18 Mack & Carole Vance  
August 25 Joyce Jensen & Pauline Arndt

## Visitors' Gifts

August 4 Carole Vance  
August 11 Carol Carney  
August 18 Pat Hamilton  
August 25 Gabby Cox

## Acolytes

August 4 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
August 11 Noella Sondrini, Anthony Basquez  
August 18 Claire Kerian, Elizabeth Wilson  
August 25 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi

## Welcome Leaders

August 4 Lois Sherrets  
August 11 Karen Linfor  
August 18 Merle Zbrog  
August 25 Betty Englund



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

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Sacramento, CA

Return Service Requested



Join us on  
August 4th  
help us stuff!

We will be stuffing backpacks full  
of the school supplies that  
everyone has graciously donated  
after worship in Schultz Hall.  
Hope to see you there!