



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
(916) 421-5039  
[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)  
office@slelca.org  
Interim Pastor Bill Wessner  
PastorBillSLelca@gmail.com

December 2021



# News And Views

From Pastor Bill

Interim

The gift given.

When I was a kid, there was a Christmas when my brother and I received only one gift. Well, one beyond the standard shirts and sox and underwear and jeans and belt and shoes and... still only one "cool" gift each. Plenty to unwrap. Both my parents were apologetic with the explanation, something about moving and two houses and escrow... who can say? We did not lack anything when I was growing up. Nor we were short toys to play with but this Christmas there was no wagon, no hobby horse, no tinker toys, no farm set, no Lego, no electric train, or racecar track. And the following Christmas there was the chemistry set, erector set and the microscope and the transistor radio and and and... all in one year! But, this Christmas there was only the weatherman set. Which was basically a metal map of the United States, and a pack of magnets along with some books describing clouds and barometric pressure and wind direction. It wasn't until a year or two later when we studied weather in science class that I discovered how fascinating meteorology is. And when I recognized some of the concepts, I remembered the set aside weather board Christmas present, only unwrapped and barely perused.

This time of year I love to give the Advent quiz at "children's sermons." Children are all excited

about the many Christmas preparations at school and at home and named them gleefully. Then I ask: "who comes at Christmas? And the nearly unanimous cry is Santa! So goes the Advent quiz. It is a good time to reminded all children of the difference between commerce and church, and the reason for gift giving and finally about the "all time best Christmas present ever." Then the question changes to: "Whose birthday is Christmas?"

A real Advent is the creation of a state of mind and preparation for receiving the gift. As we proceed through these weeks in Advent the Lectionary leads us in serious contemplation of what God is doing. The Advent devotional utilizes small doses (2-5 verses) of Chapter One and Two of St Luke's Gospel to contemplate the depth and breathe of God's gift of Jesus to humanity. In both the preparation is God getting us people ready for this gift.

Unwrapping the gift is only the beginning of receiving. It really does take more than a lifetime to open our own selves to appreciate gifts given, especially this gift.

Come and See

Peace

*Pastor Bill*

**Transition Team Updates coming.** Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> Watch emails and see you in church.

## ***Positions Available***

***Are you interested in joining the TEAM? The following Council positions are still available for council in 2022:***

***Council Secretary***

***Council Treasurer***

***Please be in prayer and consider where you might be able to assist in continuing St. Luke's mission of serving God, the Church, and the Community.***

***If you're interested in volunteering for either of these positions, we need to talk. We can discuss your consideration in person, I'm at church every Sunday or I can be reached by telephone at (916)662-3073 or send me an email at [agrannyatlarge@aol.com](mailto:agrannyatlarge@aol.com). I look forward to hearing from you.***

***Your Fellow Servant in Christ,***

***Carolyn Andrews Council President***



Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held, this year in-person, on **December 12, 2021 immediately following the 10:30 worship service.** Sorry there won't be a potluck following the meeting, due to the Covid restrictions. We will be presenting the proposed budget for 2022, and the above listed leadership positions. For those of you who aren't able to attend in-person that's okay, because youle to participate via ZOOM.

Thank you for your continued support. All that's being done, couldn't be done without each of you. St. Luke's church family is strong as always.

## **Cantata**

The choir's annual Christmas cantata under the direction of Jane Fanucci will be presented **Sunday, December 19th at the 10:30 service.** Invite your friends and family for this inspirational and up-beat musical presentation.



**W-ELCA** will be having their Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, **December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM** this year in the Schultz Hall. The luncheon will be provided by the W-ELCA Board so please sign up on the W-ELCA Christmas Luncheon Sign Up Sheet on the Opportunity Table, we would love to see all the ladies of the church attend. Our luncheon will include a short W-ELCA meeting, singing Christmas songs and a small gift exchange for those who would like to participate. (If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift under \$10.00 so you can join the fun). Our Joint Mission Support with Community Concern for December is collecting gift cards (certificates) for \$5.00 a piece to be provided to Union Gospel Mission and Loafs & Fishes to be handed out to the Homeless.

## November W-ELCA Meeting report:

The meeting was held on November 13, at 11:30am in the Schultz Hall with everyone bringing their own sack lunch to eat. The meeting included a Devotion provided by Faith Thomas; Minutes were read by Karen Linfor; Treasurer report was provided by Connie Reule; and a Mission report was provided by Linda Duffek. Old Business included a follow up on our successful October Fall Festival where it was announced we raised \$1147.55; and the future Thankofferring Service on November 21, 2021 co-chaired by Peggy Moser and Karen Linfor.

Yours In Christ,  
Marlene Kiser  
W-ELCA President





The Zoom Bible Study continues Tuesdays at 10:00.

Topic: The Gospel of Luke

Study Guide: Luke: N.T. Wrights For Everyone Bible Study Guide

Author of Study: N.T Wright

Please let Marlene Kiser know by email: marlenek@att.net or by phone (916-424-8626, please leave a message) if you are interested in attending the Zoom classes that will run for 26 weeks so you can be included in the invite. 10 Study Guide are available to be purchased for \$8.00, for the study. More study guides will be purchased if needed. (the guide is also available for Kindle)

- Note: our cycle of readings on Sundays will have St. Luke at it's center beginning November 28th. The First Sunday in Advent.

## SL-Youth

The members of the congregation were very generous with their donations for the pumpkin bread and SLY appreciates it very much.



## 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 narthex.



# Poinsettias



If you would like to donate \$12 toward the purchase of a Poinsettia Plant in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the poinsettia form and enclose with it your donation in a pew envelope. Poinsettias can be picked up following Christmas Eve service or the service on December 26th.

Please contact Shirley Prouty with questions.



**December's Community Concerns and WELCA project will be gift cards for the homeless.** We are requesting \$5.00 gift cards to any fast food restaurant, Dollar Tree or 99 Cent Store. We will also be accepting monetary donations to be spent on purchasing gift cards. Donations will help Loaves and Fishes and Union Gospel Mission to provide a little Christmas cheer! Please contact Lina Duffek, Cathy Davis or Marlene Kiser with any questions you may have.



On behalf of the Community Concerns and WELCA we would like to thank the congregation for the amazing outpouring of food and money donations for the Elk Grove Food Bank. Our barrel was overflowing with your wonderful generosity and love. The Elk Grove Food Bank came on Monday November 22nd to pick up the food from the narthex. It totaled 455lbs. And we also gave \$455.00 in donations to the food bank. Both totals are impressive! **Thank you to everyone who donated.**

*Start collecting your socks, gloves, hats, and scarfs for January's project!*

Again, thank you for all you do to help support our mission.

God's blessings to you all,

Linda Duffek and Cathy Davis

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

*October 2021*

*(On-site worship services did not return until  
March 7, 2021 ).*

**Comments:**

- a. This October was a five-Sunday month.
- b. The Good News: The monthly offerings surpassed last year's October offerings. Also, the number of monthly, unique contributions was greater than last year's October. .
- c. The Not So Good News: The YTD figures fall short of the adopted Budget (about \$18,300) and last year's offerings (about \$24,500).
- d.

Jack Fenske 916-714-3626,

[LRFenske@comcast.net](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)

St. Luke's Financial Secretary

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
<b>Total Contribution</b>	\$14,714	\$131,310
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$2,976	-\$18,320
	-16.8%	-12.2%
<b>Compared to 2020</b>	\$536	-\$24,516
	3.8%	-15.7%
No. of Contributors		
<b>2021</b> (Current Year)	58	54 avg.
<b>2020</b> (Last Year)	51	61 avg.
<b>Other Contributions:</b>		
Memorials –	\$550.00	

*Note: Plus values are above Budget/Last Year; minus values are below.*

## December Birthdays



- Alanna Olmeda.....December 01*
- Faith Harper.....December 03*
- Carole Vance ..... December 03*
- Kim Fenske .....December 04*
- Benjamin Iniquez.....December 05*
- Jared Kiser.....December 05*
- Lauren Richey .....December 09*
- Betty Englund .....December 14*
- Chet Madison ..... December 16*
- Kristine Felgenhauer..... December 17*
- Marilyn Dorr.....December 18*
- Sylvia Kohler.....December 21*
- Triss Hoppman.....December 25*
- Robert Harrison.....December 26*
- Deanna Dockter.....December 27*
- Adalyn Kiser.....December 31*

### Advent

God Bless Us Everyone! Advent and Christmas home devotionals "Heaven and Nature Sing" are now available. They are available in the narthex.



A Big Thank You to Peggy Moser and Pastor Bill, and all who worked so diligently to make All Saints Day on November 7<sup>th</sup> a huge success! Pictures of our dearly departed were displayed, and family & friends were invited forward to light a candle in honor of them. It was a beautiful service, and one we hope to carry on in the future.

Christmas Season activities have begun. Advent started on November 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Advent devotional booklets are available in the Narthex. Michael and Linda Duffek have graciously volunteered to donate a Christmas tree for the Sanctuary. Decorating the tree and the Sanctuary is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>, following the W-ELCA meeting at 11:30 am. Help will be needed to set the tree in the stand and secure it, and decorating it. This is a fun and rewarding experience! If you are interested in helping, please let me or any Worship & Music Board member know.

As in previous years, we have ordered 30 Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. If you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia in memory of or honor of someone, they are available for purchase for \$12.00 each, and can be picked up following the Christmas Eve service or after services on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Sunday bulletin.

You may have noticed that the Christmas Card Box has already been placed in the Narthex. Please use this box to send Christmas cards to fellow church members, rather than mailing them. It certainly helps to keep postage costs down for all of us.

Our Choir Director & Organist, Jane Fanucci, is interested in activating the Hand Bell Choir. If you are interested in participating, please contact her. She can be reached at [jef100bicen@yahoo.com](mailto:jef100bicen@yahoo.com). Jane would also welcome additional choir members.

Although our choir is still small in numbers, they sound GREAT! Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

We are so excited to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in church this year!

In Christ's Love,  
*Shirley Prouty*, Chair,  
Worship & Music Board

## **Sign Up for Advent**

### **Candle Lighting & Readings**

Each Sunday in Advent, we have a family or group of friends light that week's Advent candle and read a special Advent passage at the beginning of the service.

Please contact Shirley Prouty



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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Sacramento, CA

Return Service Requested



December 19th  
10:30am



Christmas Eve  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

December 24th  
7:00pm



Tree Decorating  
December 11th  
following the 11:30  
W-ELCA Luncheon &  
meeting  
(see you about 1:00)