



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

(916) 421-5039

[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)

[office@slelca.org](mailto:office@slelca.org)

Pastor Brian Hiortdahl

[pastorbrian@slelca.org](mailto:pastorbrian@slelca.org)



## Pastoral Perspective

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

*(Hebrews 13:1-2)*

**Thank you!** Thank you so much for welcoming me and my family so warmly and generously to St. Luke's. Your notes and gifts are too many and marvelous to list. I needed a second door for Christmas cards. I fear I've gained thirty pounds in six weeks from two potlucks and the parade of delicious goodies, many of them homemade. I am humbled by your overwhelming welcome. Tina and I cannot sufficiently express our gratitude and appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

I hope that everyone who arrives at St. Luke's, whoever they are, receives an equally warm and generous welcome. Can we lavish equal love in Christ's name on every newcomer—even if they are not an angel like I am? (By the way, "angel" means messenger. That's in my job description—not necessarily my character or personality!)

Obviously, you've got it in you. Dorothy Haney is masterful at providing nametags for all comers, and already I've been called over more than once to greet a visitor by a member of St. Luke's who welcomed them before I could. Cheerful greeters serve every Sunday. But there's a subtle danger in that: we might think greeting newcomers is a one-person job, and that one person is Someone Else. Nope. The author of Hebrews was writing to a community, not an individual. Hospitality, like mutual love, is every Christian's calling. *Do not neglect it!*

In a recent devotion, Richard Rohr wrote: *In Luke's Gospel, all of Jesus' rules of ministry—his "tips for the road"—are very interpersonal. They are based on putting people in touch with people. Person-to-person is the way the gospel was originally communicated. Person-in-love-with-person, person-respecting-person, person-forgiving-person, person-touching-person, person-crying-with-person, person-hugging-person: that's where the Spirit is so beautifully present.* ("Jesus' Person-to-Person Ministry," December 27, 2022)

Every person, of course, is a child of God. Every person can be an angel, a messenger of God. Martin Luther insisted on the "priesthood of all believers" because baptism makes every Christian a pastor, an ambassador for God, a bearer of Christ. Scripture, history, and daily life are full of stories of others who serve as angels and servants of God, knowingly or otherwise. Every face you see, familiar and otherwise, presents holy dignity and a divine purpose.

*So let mutual love continue, and do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers ... for some have welcomed future friends and faith companions without knowing it!*

Yours Gratefully in Christ,  
**Pastor Brian**

Dear Church Family,

First I want to say THANK YOU to the wonderful Council members and their boards. During the Covid pandemic they kept the day-to-day needs of our congregation flowing as smoothly as possible. Pastor Bill and Pastor Ron provided us with the spiritual guidance we all needed during this very trying time. Thank you, thank you.

So much happened in 2022 and each Board will be reporting their view. In February it looked like the pandemic was under control and the mandated masking order was lifted, and we started to return to what appeared to be a semblance of normalcy. Pastor Bill's interim ministerial leadership came to an end on June 26, 2022, at which time Pastor Ron stepped in as our ministerial leader and we will be forever grateful.

The Church's Ministry Site Profile (MSP) was completed in early February and our Call Committee was formed at a special Council meeting February 28, 2022. The committee worked diligently preparing for the Call. God led our Call Committee, under the leadership of Chet Madison, and they presented us with a candidate in September. On November 20, 2022 the Congregation voted to extend to Pastor Brian Hiortdahl the Invitation of Call. Pastor Brian accepted the call. His ministerial journey with us began on December 1, 2022. We are so excited to have Pastor Brian and his family joining us in our Mission. Praise be to God!

I'd like to say welcome to the new Council Leaders:

Chet Madison – Council President

Peggy Moser – Vice President

Faith Thomas – Youth Leader

It has indeed been a pleasure serving as your Council President, and I want to say "Thank You" to all the wonderful people of this congregation. I couldn't have done this without you, Council and all the board members. We walked through this journey together.

**Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's call to spread the Good News, Serve those in need, and Share the Victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world."**

**Peace and Blessings,  
Carolyn Andrews, Council President**



## Note from St. Luke's Financial Secretary

*(Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRAs)*

Today's tax laws include a large "standard deduction" and leave little opportunity for many of us to deduct charitable contributions including St. Luke's offerings. However, one opportunity that does remain for those making withdrawals from IRAs is to reduce your taxable income through a "Qualified Charitable Distribution", such as St. Luke's offerings.

If you are eligible, I encourage you to seek advice from your financial or tax advisor as you determine your St. Luke's offering for 2023. Below are some partial excerpts from the IRS website.

### ***What is a qualified charitable distribution?***

Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is an **otherwise taxable distribution** (*Jack's bold*) from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over that is **paid directly** from the IRA to a qualified charity. See Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) for additional information.

### ***Can a qualified charitable distribution satisfy my required minimum distribution from an IRA?***

Yes, your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

### ***How are qualified charitable distributions reported on Form 1099-R?***

Charitable distributions are reported on Form 1099-R for the calendar year the distribution is made.

### ***How do I report a qualified charitable distribution on my income tax return?***

To report a qualified charitable distribution on your Form 1040 tax return, you generally report the full amount of the charitable distribution on the line for IRA distributions. On the line for the taxable amount, enter zero if the full amount was a qualified charitable distribution. Enter "QCD" next to this line. See the Form 1040 instructions for additional information.

*End partial IRS excerpts*

Information specifically for Qualified Charitable Distributions to St. Luke's is as follows:

Payment **must** be made to – St. Luke Lutheran Church of Sacramento, California (*note St. Luke's without the "s"*)

St. Luke's address – 7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823

Federal ID – 68-0004807

Please verify your eligibility and all information with your financial or tax advisor.

*Jack Fenske, Financial Secretary*

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church*



## Worship & Music Board

January, 2023

“God’s Work, Our Hands” continues to be the motto for the work of all volunteers at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. The Worship & Music Board is fortunate to have many “hands” to assist with myriad tasks associated with every service of the church. We were also blessed to have Pastor Bill and Susan Wessner until June 30, 2022. We continued to be blessed to have Pastor Ron assist with services until our search for a permanent pastor culminated with Pastor Brian, who answered God’s call to serve St. Luke’s as our pastor, effective December 1, 2022. Many thanks to the Call Committee for their diligent work!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who play an essential part in the various duties of the Worship & Music Board:

**Marlene Kiser** – operates the sound system and online video of our services and schedules Altar Care assistants;

**Karen Linfor** – shares her beautiful voice as the song leader, as well as performing solos for special music;

**Peggy Moser** – makes sure our lovely banners are in place, according to the church calendar, teaches Sunday School, and picks up all the loose ends as needed;

**Jacob Wilson** – brings his keyboard and plays at almost every service, and provides special music during the year, as well;

**Jeff Kiser** – fills the candles and candelabras with oil every Sunday after services, and fills in to operate the sound board as needed;

**Bob Behr** – sets the candelabras in place early Sunday mornings;

**Kelly Boyer** – ushers and serves as an Acolyte most Sundays; and Larry Dockter who ushers when available;

**Barbara Manlapig** – schedules Scripture Readers and Prayer Leaders;

**Dorothy Haney** – takes attendance each Sunday;

**Faith Thomas** – schedules Communion Assistants;

**Kathleen Arndt, Andrew Weber and Bill Myers** who often assist with ushering duties during services;

And, a debt of gratitude to **Marlene Kiser, Peggy Moser, and Ed & Kirsten Ireton** for donations to purchase the Christmas Tree this year, and to my son **Steve Lentsch** for picking out a beautiful, 11 foot tree and transporting it to the church. The Sanctuary was beautifully decorated, thanks to so many who participated: **Karen & Bruce Kiser, and Jeff Kiser** who set up the tree and manger scene; **Karen Linfor, Kelly Boyer, Kathleen Arndt, Pauline Arndt, Lois Sherrets, Brenda Sulzmann, Pastor Brian and Tina, Peggy Moser, Marlene Kiser, Gail Weber, Andrew Weber, and Faith Thomas**, and others I may have missed.

I also want to salute **Jane Fanucci** for the excellent job she does as our music and choir director. Our choir is small, but they are outstanding! Additional members are always welcome to join the choir. Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Worship Assistants are always needed. Please, prayerfully consider helping as you are able! We especially need ushers!!

Wishing All a Very Blessed 2023

Shirley Prouty, Chair

---

## January 2023 Scripture Readers, Prayers Leaders & Altar Care

### **Sunday January 1st**

Reader - Faith Thomas

Prayer Leader - Gail Weber

Altar Care - Marlene Kiser

### **Sunday, January 22nd**

Reader - Christiana Wilson

Prayer Leader - Karen Linfor

Altar Care - Kelly Boyer

### **Sunday, January 8th**

Reader - Laura Tice

Prayer Leader - Punky Dias

Altar Care - Gail Weber

### **Sunday, January 29th**

Reader - Bob Behr

Prayer Leader - Sarah Madison

Altar Care - Carol Carney

### **Sunday, January 15th**

Reader - Howard Triebwasser

Prayer Leader - Philip Karlstad

Altar Care - Faith Thomas



**Socks!**

Socks

Socks



**Socks!!**

Our collection for needy neighbors in January 2023 will be *new socks*, which are very valuable for those living on wet, cold streets. Please add socks to your post-Christmas sale shopping list and bring them to St. Luke's narthex in January.

Thank you,

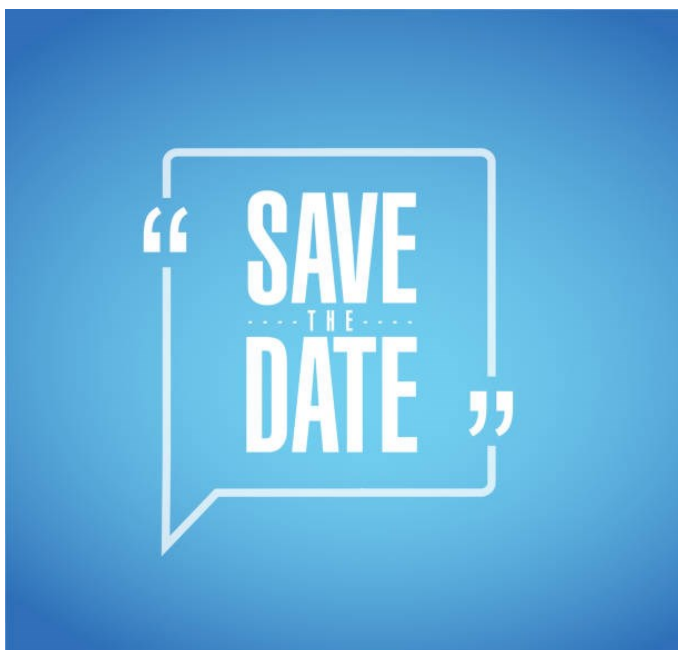
Linda Duffek and Cathy Davis



### **Epiphany Breakfast – January 6**

It's back! Join us for our Epiphany breakfast on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9:30am in Schultz Hall. Visit the Opportunity Table to sign up to attend and bring breads or fruit; the evangelism board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice. Please also bring nativity sets to display on tables.

Thank you, Carole Vance



Pastor Brian will be officially installed as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church on **Sunday, February 5, 2023 at a special 4:00pm worship service.** A dinner celebration will follow. Hope to see everyone there!



Kathryn Felgenhauer	January 02
Darnell Osako	January 02
Craig Eckels	January 03
Jacob Kiser	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Lauren Orcutt	January 08
Sandra Mansfield	January 09
Karen Linfor	January 10
Deanna Dockter Jr.	January 13
Kayla King	January 16
Dennis Fischer	January 19
George Dorr	January 26
Jarrold Rowland	January 27
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31

IN THE NEW YEAR,  
MAY YOU BE BLESSED  
WITH ALL THE GOOD  
THINGS GOD HAS TO GIVE.



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

Return Service Requested

Happy  
New Year  
2023

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 739  
Sacramento, CA

## Learn More about St. Luke's

Visitors, guests, non-members: Welcome to St. Luke's! You are warmly invited to join Pastor Brian after 10:30am worship on Sunday, January 22 for an hour of conversation about the ministry at St. Luke's and how to become connected. RSVP or inquire with Pastor Brian by emailing him at

[pastorbrian@slelca.org](mailto:pastorbrian@slelca.org)

Services every  
Sunday  
10:30am

Join Us every Sunday  
online at  
[slelca.org](http://slelca.org)  
Holy Communion  
Services