



www.stlukesgalt.org
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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
3rd and B Streets
PO Box 897, Galt CA 95632

Luke's Letter December 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"O come, O come, Emmanuel...and ransom captive Israel, who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel will come to thee O Israel." I absolutely love the season of Advent and the carols we will sing at our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service. As we prepare to make room in our hearts for the coming of Christ, we will sing the familiar carol above. We as the Church are the new Israel, and we long for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. We rejoice for Jesus will return, not as a babe in a manger, but as the reigning King of Kings and Lord of Lords and Jesus will deliver, save and ransom us from our darkness, loneliness and mourning.

At the beginning of his Gospel, John the apostle writes; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him and in Him was life and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:1-4) We are reminded that Jesus was always God from the very beginning. He has always existed and before that first Christmas morning when He became incarnated as a baby boy, born to Mary and Joseph; Jesus had already always existed as a member of the Holy Trinity.

John writes that Jesus made the world along with God the Father and when Jesus was born He gave all who received Him the power to become God's children. When we receive Jesus, we are receiving God and we become what John calls "born again spiritually." We are not born of blood or of the flesh; but we are born by the power of the Holy Spirit and we enter into a new relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12-13)

I am so thankful that God came to us in the flesh so that we could know God and enter into a relationship with Him. And our knowing and loving God is a relationship that starts the moment we receive Jesus and lasts for all eternity. May this Advent and Christmas Season bring you God's peace, joy and delight.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas,

Barbara Elizabeth+



DECEMBER EVENTS

Diocesan Open House

The people of the Diocese of Northern California are invited to a Christmas Open House at the Office of the Bishop.

WHEN: Friday, December 11, 3-7 pm

WHERE: 1318 27th Street, Sacramento

Advent Soup Suppers and Worship

*WHEN: 5:30 for supper and 6:15 pm Wednesday evenings in Advent -
December 2, 9, and 16*

WHERE: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 6th and E St., Galt

Caroling and Youth Event

All members, friends, neighbors, relatives of St. Luke's family are invited to join together at the Parish Hall on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. to go caroling at the two nursing homes in Galt. Then we will return to the Parish Hall for a potluck supper. We used to do this every year for quite some time, but have not done so for about two years.

The patients at the hospitals really appreciate it. It is a most rewarding experience for young and old. So even if you claim you do not sing, please join us to swell the ranks for a good group. We need lots of young ones to ring the jingle bells and bring the joy to those who cannot celebrate the holidays as we can. Please sign up on a menu sheet in the parish hall in order to balance the diet for the supper. Thanks. Hope to see you ALL there.

Doris Holm and Rob Sealey, Coordinators

Christmas Eve Service

St. Luke's Christmas Eve service will be at 7 pm on December 24.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Kathryn Yue (Dec. 1), Peggy Beardsley (Dec. 3), Krista Butler (Dec. 5), Judy Schmier (Dec. 6), Mark Butler (Dec. 9), Nancy Wilkowski (Dec. 17), Dennis Wilson and Phil Becerra (Dec. 19), Judy Parks (Dec. 20), Alyssa Lindsey and Kathy Becerra (Dec. 23), William Flaherty (Dec. 23), Valerie Ripert (Dec. 27), and Rev. James Townsend (Dec. 29).

Happy Anniversary to Bob and Judy Parks (Dec. 18).



Calling all Musicians!!!!

Please let Pastor Barbara or Norene know if you would like to play music for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7 pm on December 24th.

We're Looking for a Few Great Men and Women.....

Please pray about serving as a member of St. Luke's Mission Committee. We are looking for committed members who attend worship weekly, are involved in the life of our parish and give of their time, talent and treasure. Terms of service are for the next three years. Mission Committee members will attend a retreat at the beginning of our new year together and we meet monthly.

Nominations for our Mission Committee and for Delegates to Convention can be given to our Senior Warden, Helen Richter and/or Pastor Barbara Elizabeth. Also feel free to talk to any member of the current Mission Committee if you have any questions. Feel free to nominate yourself and/or another member (after you get that members' permission!) Thank you!



December 2009

Justus Felix plays piano for us

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			5:30 –Soup Supper and Worship at 6:15– Lutheran Church			96 th Annual Bazaar- 9 to 1
6 Advent 2 <i>Ingathering Sunday</i>	7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan	8	9	10	11	12
9 - Choir 10- Advent Lessons and Carols 11:15 - Fellowship			5:30 –Soup Supper and Worship at 6:15- Lutheran Church		3 to 7 Diocesan Open House, Bishop's Office, 1318 27 th St., Sacramento	
13 Advent 3	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 – Choir 10 – HE and SS 11:15 Fellowship 11:45 Mission Committee 4 – Caroling and Potluck and Youth Event			5:30 –Soup Supper and Worship at 6:15- Lutheran Church			
20 Advent 4	21 St. Thomas the Apostle	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
9 – Choir 10 – HE and SS 11:15 Fellowship				7 – Christmas Eve Service		
27 Christmas 1 St. John, Apostle	28 The Holy Innocents	29 Thomas Becket	30	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 New Year's Day	
9 – Choir 10 – HE and SS 11:15 Fellowship <i>Newsletter information due</i> January 3 – Christmas 2 Lessons and Carols						

December Lay Ministry Schedule

	December 7 th	December 14 th	December 21 st	December 28 th
Priest	The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon	The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon	The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon	The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon
L.E.M.	Ron Olsen	Dot Riley	Sheree Askew	Rob Sealey
Acolyte Team	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
1st Reading	Sheree Askew	Bob Parks	Pearl Cronk	Anne Butler
2nd Reading	Maureen Olsen	Krista Butler	Joan Culbertson	Doris Holm
Prayers of the People	Norene	Norene	Norene	Norene
Usher/ Greeter	Butlers	Cochrons	Gayle Plummer	Cronks
Counters	Stacy Plummer Joan Culbertson	Holly Yue Holly Mantz	Dorothy Merkins Stacy Plummer	Doris Holm James Wirrell
Altar Guild				



BITS AND PIECES OF INTEREST

- ❖ Congratulations to Michael Yue and Margaret Cochran who were confirmed on November 22 by our Bishop, the Rt. Reverend Barry Beisner.
- ❖ Our Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday December 5. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success!
- ❖ Hannah Flaherty and Mark McMillen were actors in Galt High's production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream". Our youth group attended the production and Julie Flaherty made many of the costumes.
- ❖ Reilly Butler is dancing as a toy soldier in the Sacramento Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker".
- ❖ St. Luke's Outreach Committee, on behalf of the whole congregation, donated a total of about \$400 recently to several different charities. If you'd like more details, please see Gayle Plummer.

Note on the Operating Budget

The 2009 budget committee (Dorothy, Bob, Jay and myself) did a good job of estimating expenses and income – we're tracking to finish up right around \$54,000 as planned. Despite maintaining a bare-bones budget it has grown by 2-1/2 to 3 percent per year for the past three years. So I anticipate expenses for 2010 to be around \$55,600. Unfortunately, in 2010 we won't be looking to grow pledge income by only \$1,600 (which would be a 2-1/2 to 3 percent increase), but by \$4,600 because we have used up the \$3,000 accrued income from the 2007 fireworks sales. Since we won't be doing the fireworks sale this year, we won't have that cushion.

But there is much for us to be grateful for: this wonderful church building and congregation, and our ability to maintain a rainy day fund (by meeting our current expenses with our current income). In thinking about making a pledge or a gratitude offering, please think hard about how you can be involved in fundraisers to meet our 10.5% shortfall in 2010 operating income.

Ron Olsen
Treasurer

St. Luke's Episcopal Church www.stlukesgalt.org 209-745-2784

The Rev. Barbara Elizabeth Nixon, Pastor and Priest-in-Charge
vicar@stlukesgalt.org

Norene Luis, Organist and Choirmaster

Kathy McClarrinon, Sexton

Sheree Askew, Volunteer Office Administrator

Maureen Olsen, Newsletter Editor

St. Luke's Mission Committee

Helen Richter, Senior Warden (2011)

Stacy Plummer (2009) and Jay Kirkman (2009), Co-Junior Wardens

Ron Olsen, Treasurer (2009)

Dorothy Merkins, Clerk (2010)

Holly Yue (2010), Mark McMillen (2011),

Hannah Flaherty (2011), Sheree Askew (2011)

St. Luke's Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Ron Olsen, Holly Yue, Holly Mantz (Alternate: James Wirrell)



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