



## Candles & Carols 2019

Director of Worship & Music Steven Johnson describes our upcoming signature event presented by the St. John's Music Ministries. Mark your calendars for December 18th & 19th - you do not want to miss it!



### Our Values - Nov. 17th

SAVE THE DATE! The third and final installment of our "Exploring our Values" series takes place Nov. 17th at 12:30pm in Oehler Hall.



### Advent Festival - Dec. 1st

SAVE THE DATE! Advent Festival takes place Sunday, Dec. 1st. Join us as we kick off the Season of Advent with yule logs, activities and more!



### Santa Lucia - Dec. 15th

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for this St. John's tradition Sunday, Dec. 15th at 5pm for worship with the reception to follow in Goethe Hall.

To see all of our upcoming events, go to [stjohnslc.org/events](http://stjohnslc.org/events) or Like us on Facebook.



# A Message from St. John's Lutheran Church

## Candles & Carols 2019

### *A Music & Culinary Community Christmastide Celebration*



Candles and Carols 2018 (Photo Credit: Steven Mercer)

Welcome to the Spirit of Christmas.

If you would, step back with us into time through the portals of Christmases past.

We promise you will be inspired by visions of the Victorian era, accompanied by Candles & Carols and Music & Culinary creations. We will transport you back to an era when human inspiration took an epic leap forward in the discovery, advancement and presentation of the musical and culinary arts.

The magical days will be the eighteenth and nineteenth days of December in the year 2019, beginning promptly at 6:30pm. At that moment, you and other guests will meet at the 18th & K Street parking premises.

Then you will be escorted down the luminary-lined sidewalks to the main entrance of St. John's courtyard, a place where you can still hear the laughter of children playing their summer games. You will continue to make your way to the Northern Hall of Oehler where you will be officially greeted by our Court Jester, Dean-O.

Upon entering, you will sign the official Candles & Carols registry. It is a wonderful tradition when a community gathers, that hospitality is of paramount importance and should never be taken for granted. You will be given a special Candles and Carols name badge, which will make it easier for everyone to become acquainted.

You will then be directed to the Southern Hall of Oehler where you will receive a flute of champagne, or apple spritzer if you choose, while singing and enjoying some of the season's most treasured carols.

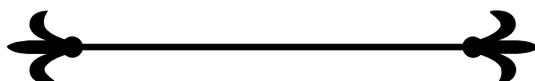
As the final sip of your desired beverage dances on your tongue, your hosts will escort all guests to their designated seats in the St. Stephen's Divine Dining Hall. It is there where you will be served a delicious and delightful three-course banquet.

But wait, that's not all. As you enjoy delightful course after delightful course, the atmosphere will be filled with a Christmastide musical feast brought to you by the celestial sounds of St. John's Choirs and the Sacramento "Frolicking" Men's Chorus, along with strolling minstrels to enhance your auditory acuties.

"All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place." Bring your family and invite a friend! This is sure to be an epic highlight of this year's Christmas celebrations.

The Spirit of Christmas awaits.

Upon the conclusion of the evening, you will be ushered out of the front entrance of the dining hall and will travel home in your non-horse drawn carriage, remembering and sharing the evening when you visited a Christmas past.



*How can you make this fantasy real?*

Should you desire to purchase tickets and secure your formal place at a table, please do so at the church during normal business hours or following Sunday worship services on November 10th, 17th & 24th.

**Last possible date to secure reservations is Sunday, December 15th.**

Tickets may be obtained for \$50 per person, or St. John's families up to seven members \$130.00. Acceptable payments include cash or vintage handwritten checks written out to St. John's with a note in the memo line "C&C 2019," or by going far into cyberspace at [www.stjohnslc.org/events](http://www.stjohnslc.org/events).

Benevolent offerings for a certain number of tickets are available. Please inquire with Linda Baldwin via the church office for more information.

Please extend invitations to friends to join us at this exceptional community Christmastide gathering. The halls will be decked with boughs of holly, all in hopes that everyone who enters will therefore be jolly.

**- Steven Johnson  
Director of Worship & Music**

***Candles and Carols is a St. John's Signature event brought  
to you and the greater community by the St. John's Music Ministries.***

# St. John's Supports Sac Kids First Ballot Measure

**By Lisa Berg**  
**Church Council President**

Earlier this year, one of our incoming members approached Pastor Frank Espegren and Rebekah Turnbaugh about an effort called Sac Kids First, which is a coalition of community leaders advocating for the creation of a Sacramento Children's Fund. We didn't have a mechanism to evaluate such opportunities, so the Council formed the Public Witness Committee. After thoughtful research by the Public Witness Committee and conversation among the Council, the Council decided to support the efforts of Sac Kids First.



Pastor Amy Kienzle and Jim Keddy from Sac Kids First attending the meeting with Mayor Darrell Steinberg in October. (Photo Credit: Rebekah Turnbaugh)

A ballot measure to create a Sacramento Children's Fund will be on either the March or November ballot next year, though the March ballot is preferred due to process and timing. If passed by voters, the Sacramento Children's Fund would be established through using 2.5% of the City's unrestricted revenues, approximately \$12 million annually. No less than 90% of the funds are to be used for direct services for youth and children.

Similar legislation was passed in Oakland in 1996, and has had positive outcomes, including improved school attendance.

Thus far, we have sent a letter to Mayor Steinberg, copying members of the City Council, urging their support of putting the measure on the March ballot. Pastor Amy Kienzle and Rebekah Turnbaugh have attended a meeting, along with members of the Sac Kids First Coalition and Mayor Steinberg to discuss the matter in person. The Council believes this is a way to benefit children that is not partisan and allows the community to decide to make an intentional investment in our youth.

To learn more about the Sac Kids First ballot measure, please visit <https://sackidsfirst.org/the-ballot-measure/measure/> or go to [stjohnslc.org](http://stjohnslc.org).



We will be hosting families through Family Promise of Sacramento again during the week of November 24th! We are looking for people with gifts of hospitality, welcome, and preparing meals to greet our guests, bring dinner, and serve as overnight hosts throughout the week. If you are interested in serving, please contact Lisi Long at [lisi4long@gmail.com](mailto:lisi4long@gmail.com) or sign up online at [stjohnslc.org/volunteer](http://stjohnslc.org/volunteer).

## Signs of God's Gracious Love

Thank you to all who submitted your 2020 General Fund Pledges during Commitment Sunday! For those who were not able to bring your pledges, we urge you to do so soon. We need your pledge to be joined with the others received, to get to the 300 or so pledges needed to predict our budget for 2020.

Join us in achieving our goal by:

1. Mailing your pledge card to the church
2. Bringing your pledge card to the church
3. Calling the church office to speak with our accountant Kat, or Linda Baldwin, to submit your pledge over the phone (916-444-0874)

Thank you all for your generous giving, according to your means, to the missional cause that is St. John's.



### St John's Youth's Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser January 11th, 2020 • 5:00pm - 8:00pm • Goethe Hall

St. John's Youth will be hosting our annual Crab Feed to help raise funds for our summer trip. This year, our youth will be participating in the Western States Youth Gathering at CLU. They will come together to connect through fun, worship, learning, and service.

All proceeds from the Crab Feed go directly to support our youth in joining others in life-changing and faith-building experiences.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Childcare is \$20 per family.

## ST. JOHN'S SENIOR CONCERNS MINISTRY PRESENTS: "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" November 17th & November 24th 10:15 AM • Oehler North

Right now, in homes all around our region, there are caregivers, caring for spouses, parents, children or friends. Maybe its short term or it's been going on for years; or maybe, it is imminent. The focus tends to be on the care receiver, right?

### ***But who is taking care of the caretaker?***

Please join us to hear firsthand from current and former care-receivers as well as experts from both Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center and Senior Care Solutions on how to do just that.

Each Sunday, a panel of current and former caregivers will provide their stories and insights. Additionally, on November 17th, **Simone Nazzal, Director of Education at Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center** will provide an overview of resources and support organizations to help "improve the well-being of family caregivers and provide support throughout the caregiving process". She also will share her insights of being a caregiver who received services from DelOro.

On November 24th, in addition to the panel, **Christine Grmolyes, a care manager at Senior Care Solutions**, will present "You Deserve a Break: Caregiver Stress Tips!" The focus of her talk centers on "the importance of maintaining your health and well-being as a caregiver so that you can provide the best care possible to your loved one."

Each session will provide time for questions and discussion with all the presenters. Please mark your calendars now for November 17 and 24 at 10:15am in Oehler Hall following the 9:00am worship service.

Yes, there will be cookies.

# Spiritual Companion

By Debra Cribbins  
Stephen Minister

Lutherans are blessed with a liberating insight into Christian faith, reach out worldwide, and share God's grace and love to all. However, as Lutherans, we tend to be quiet when it comes to our faith. In fact, many times we believe our faith is not enough. This is a fallacy we need to discard to renew embracing our worship, liturgy, and daily acts of faith.

With that being said, we are entering into the most difficult time of year for many. The holidays bring memories of family times together, good and bad, and stir up many emotions within us. We miss grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins, and our precious children, yearning for the past. In fact, focusing on our losses, we will be incorporating our annual "Blue Christmas" service into regular Sunday worship December 1st to help everyone deal with grief.

God may be our caregiver and the Spirit our source of strength and grace, yet having someone to listen to us during our times of grief and sadness is a true gift. If you are facing difficulties traveling through this time of year (or any time of the year), please consider requesting a spiritual companion in the form of a Stephen Minister.

Our Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to listen, care, and help comfort you through life. They have been called to feel empathy while retaining objectivity; to be genuine with you, wounds and all; speaking truth in love and confronting you when it is needed; and being intentional about your spiritual companionship. Simply put, they will listen and love you through, helping you to realize your faith is enough.

Stephen Ministers meet with their spiritual companions about once a week. While they listen, they provide the gifts of acknowledgement and release. They help the companion turn burdens of misdeeds over to the other and in turn are assured of forgiveness and the promise of healing fractured relationships.

To enter into this sacred relationship of Stephen Ministry, please contact one of the Pastors, Parish Nurses, or Stephen Leaders, and an appointment to discuss your difficulties will be set up.

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## *Are you looking for...*

- ***A way to become involved in meaningful ministry?***
- ***Fulfillment and satisfaction in your life?***
- ***An opportunity to experience personal and spiritual growth***
- ***An understanding of God's will for your life?***

Pastor Jon Haug and Director of Community Organizing Rebekah Turnbaugh will be leading the next LumiNEXT series, "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and your Spiritual Gifts," which combines lecture, discussion, experiential activities and practical applications. We will study the purpose, source, and definition of spiritual gifts; identify clues to our gifts through various means; explore what the Bible says about each gift; discuss practical applications of spiritual gifts theology in Lutheran faith and much more.

Registration is \$20 and includes a workbook and class materials for this 8-week course (Weeks January 5th - Feb 23rd). Sign up before Thanksgiving - space is limited. To register or for more information, please contact Rebekah Turnbaugh at [rebekah.turnbaugh@stjohnslc.org](mailto:rebekah.turnbaugh@stjohnslc.org).



DISCOVERING  
GOD'S VISION  
FOR YOUR  
LIFE

*You and Your  
Spiritual Gifts*



## ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES - 10:15AM SUNDAYS

- Understanding Martin Luther – Pastor Frank, Peggie Clapper..... Now - Nov 10
- Exploring the Book of Ruth – Rev. Laura King..... Now - Nov 3
- Sr. Concerns Taskforce presentation, 10:15am..... Nov 17 & 24
- Spiritual Gifts – Pastor Jon, Rebekah Turnbaugh..... Jan 5 - Feb 23
- Women’s Voices of the Old Testament, Vicar Carolyn Brodt..... Jan 19 – Feb 9
- Care of Creation, Vicar Carolyn Brodt..... Apr 19 – May 24

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- St. John’s Signature Series – Christophe Mantoux on the organ, 2:00 pm..... Nov 3
- Emergency Action Plan – Drill, 1:00-2:30 pm..... Nov 10
- Values of St. John’s – topic: St. John’s Experience, 12:30 – 3:00pm..... Nov 17
- Family Promise..... Week of Nov 24
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship..... Nov 27
- Community Meal ..... Nov 27
- Office Closed..... Nov 28 & 29
- Advent Festival..... Dec 1
- Emergency Action Plan – Drill, 1:00-2:30 pm ..... Dec 8
- 4th Qtr Congregation Matters..... Dec 14
- Santa Lucia Festival..... Dec 15
- Candles and Carols..... Dec 18, 19
- Christmas Eve for Travelers..... Dec 11
- Christmas Eve Worship, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 11:00..... Dec 24
- Christmas Day Worship 10:00am..... Dec 25
- Crab Feed..... Jan 11

*Return Service Requested*

**POSTMASTER:** Dated Material

**Mailed on:** October 30, 2019

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## Want to get The Spokesman by email?

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