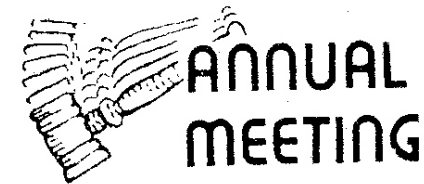


Santa Cruz Lutheran Church  
6809 South Cardinal Avenue  
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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 29, 2012, 11:30 AM**

**Potluck Luncheon to follow the meeting**

**(a sign-up for the pot luck will be posted on the Kiosk)**

Review the Annual Report, vote on the proposed 2012 budget and distribution of Sprint funds, and hold elections.

We thank the following members for their dedicated service this past year...

**Church Council** - Larry Broadhead, Sam Dodson, Melody Hensley, Bob Hohmann, Vicki Lawless, Dick Meyer, LeAnne Mitts, Stu Weidenschilling, and Kenny White

**Nominating Committee** - Diane Gonzalez, Noel Palmer, Ellen Swancutt

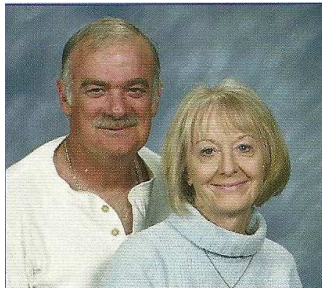
**Financial Compliance Review Committee** - Ches Gandy, Dick Meyer, Esther Wood

**Endowment Fund Committee** - Paul Bean, Chuck Conrad, Norm Davis

**Delegates to the Synod Assembly** – Lois Bradshaw and Melody Hensley

**Financial Secretary** – Arlen Holmes and **Treasurer** – Ruth Senkbeil

Our Nominating Committee is in the process of contacting members who have shown interest in the following positions: Nominating Committee; Financial Compliance Review Committee; delegates to the Synod Assembly being held in Las Vegas in May; Endowment Fund Committee; and Church Council.



### OUR MEMBERS CORNER

(a bio written by Linda Harkins)

Greg Harkins was born on December 7<sup>th</sup> ("a date that will live in infamy"), 1956, in Herron, Illinois. He and his brother and parents moved to Tucson in 1961. His father started a construction company and Greg worked after school there starting at age 12. His true love was riding motocross and he attended many competitions. Greg also wrestled in high school. When he was 21, he had an accident while working construction on a high beam in Phoenix and fell 27 feet. That ended his desire to work construction.

Linda Sanders Harkins was born on February 4, 1949, in Kalispell, Montana. She spent her school years in Kalispell and her summers were spent on her grandparent's ranch in eastern Montana. She served in the army during the Vietnam War and married Bruce Hickcox in Sierra Vista in 1968. They lived in a number of different states and spent three years in Okinawa. This marriage ended in 1983, but produced two beautiful children (Lisa and Sam), which in turn, produced seven grandchildren.

Greg and Linda met in 1985 on a blind date and have been together ever since. They were married at Santa Cruz Lutheran in 2004 by not one, but two ministers - Pastor Jim and Pastor Dale. Linda has worked at the UofA in the Planetary Science Department since 1987 and is a Business Manager there. Greg loves tennis, and going out to eat is near the top of his list of favorite things to do. The both love boating, rafting, cruising and traveling and hope to be doing much more of those things in the not too distant future as retirement looms ever closer.

## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

As we turn the calendar, can I suggest something for you, for the New Year...?

If you aren't already doing so, I encourage you to set aside even just 5-10 minutes in each day for a little bit of Bible-reading and prayer. I believe that the more often we immerse ourselves in both the Word and in conversation with the Father, the more "God-shaped" and "God-honoring" our lives become.

If you aren't already regularly reading your Bible, may I suggest starting with the Gospel of Matthew or Mark, or perhaps the Letter to the Philippians or 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. Let your goal be a chapter a day, perhaps. And, if you don't own a Bible... I will be happy to buy one for you.

As for developing a habit of prayer, do you know that the easiest way to learn to pray is to simply begin praying? You learn by doing!. Tell God about the stuff that you're carrying around inside of you. Talk to God about all those people you love and what you hope for them. Ask God to help you make the decisions about the various things that are constantly before you. But also begin to listen for God... not so much with your ears, but in a much deeper way. Spend some of your prayer time allowing God to speak to you. And begin to look for and recognize God at work all around you, and also within you.

Also, let me add just one more invitation, if I may... and that is, if you aren't already doing so, make regular Sunday morning worship a new priority for yourself (and for your family)...

Because it is here, as God's people regularly gather around both Word and Sacrament... it is here that we are fed and strengthened and set back on course for the week ahead. You see, this God of ours, who wants a relationship with us so much that he literally empties himself to come among us... it is here that he not only reveals himself to us, but that he also gives himself to us. And it is from here, that all of you, as the people of God, as you step back out these doors... you take God with you.

What I'm asking you to do, is to use this coming year... to go deeper. To make your relationship with God more than just a habit, more than just a good intention. Use this coming year to take that next step, to build that next level, and to discover for yourself that type of fullness of life in God which you've always admired in someone else.

And please know that if you need just a little more direction or encouragement in any of this, I would be delighted to talk with you. I will be happy to help you.

For you and I we belong to a God who isn't content with any sort of distance between him and us...but who comes to us, right into the very midst of our world, as broken and as often messed-up as it is. We have been claimed by a God who desires to be part of the very fabric that makes up our daily living, as broken and as off-course as our days may often be. We celebrate the word and power and promise of life which God wants to bring into the very midst of our living. We celebrate a God, for whom nothing is impossible, and in whom we can come to find our own very life and breath and being.

God bless you and shine through you as you place yourselves, in this New Year, in God.

*Pastor Jim*

## ASSISTING AT WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

### ACOLYTES

<u>JAN.</u>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1	Isabelle Carrillo	Elijah Nelson
8	Emma Hunt	Emily Lumley
15	Colin Lockwood	Nikayta Nelson
22	Kasey Hunt	Ella Daniels
29	Isabelle Carrillo	Imogene Abriola

### ASSISTING MINISTER

<u>JAN.</u>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1 & 8	Alice Davis	Lynn Gordon
15, 22, 29	Kassie Hohmann	Stu Weidenschilling

### COFFEE HOSTS

<u>JAN.</u>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1 & 8	Sam & Carolyn Dodson	Jim & Kathy Blake
15, 22, 29	Ron & Ginny Buch (refreshments too!)	Sheila Ceceña

### LECTORS

<u>JAN.</u>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1	Linda Hickcox	Betty Layton
8	Louise Conrad	Guy Cook
15	Rhonda Munyon	Melody Hensley
22	Glenna Knepper	Sandy Skinner
29	MaryLee Haag	Fred Young

### USHERS

<u>JAN.</u>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1 & 8	Chuck & Louise Conrad	Rey Alvarez, Amanda Ceceña,
	Allan & Brenda Depew	John Nelson, LeAnne Mitts
15, 22, 29	Glenna Knepper, Norm Davis,	Sandy and Dina Mathis,
	Gene & Rose Copper	Joanie Contreras, Lynn Davis

## THERE ARE MANY FOLKS TO THANK (and I hope I've remembered them all!)

for making our Seasons of Advent and Christmas so special: Special music on Nov. 27 from Alice Davis, Chuck Glen, Mark Herr, Gay Kline, Elizabeth Notto, Ray Rakow, Sandy Skinner, and Diane White; Gay for filling in for Mark on December 4<sup>th</sup>; our percussion group under the direction of Gay – Rey Alvarez, Alice, Colin Lockwood, Aaron Munyon, Renee Riegert, Kenny & Diane – who accompanied the choir under the direction of Carol Radler on Dec. 18; our Sunday School kids who presented a wonderful children's program on Christmas Eve entitled, "*The Best Christmas Present Ever*;" to everyone who helped during program rehearsals; Mark, Carol and our Choir for their hard work and dedication in preparation of special music not only during this time of year, but throughout the year; and Renee for her talents on the flute, especially on Christmas Eve.

*When we pray for one another it makes a difference. Include in God's care:*

*(In an effort to keep this list current, prayer requests may be called in by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month)*

Marion Ortiz	Beckie Arevalo	John Caballero	Judy Cook
Monie Jones	Doris Lussier	Ellen Swancutt	Jacob Matthews
Elmer Johnson	Wayne Senkbeil	Skip Keiflin	Jasmine Russell
Hiram and David Brey	Jason Hardwick	Nancy Broadhead	Esther Wood
Robin Byrne	Karen Trapp	Anna Lopez	Susie Hager
Tim Powers	Alice Pearson	Larry Havenga	Esther Miley
Arleen Helder	Kyle McGetrick		

*We grieve with...*

John & Beverly Palermo at the death of their nephew, Mark Palermo, on December 8<sup>th</sup>

† † †

## THANKS...

...to **ALL** who have helped to make the new Sunday School format a success by teaching a lesson, sharing a craft, leading an activity, or supplying a snack.

...to **ALL** who made a donation during our Thanksgiving Eve offering - \$362 was donated to the ELCA World Hunger Relief.

...to **ALL who were a part of, or helped with our Advent Luncheon:** Lois Bradshaw, Ivonne and Ysabelle Carrillo, Joanie Contreras, Brenda Depew, Melody Hensley (program director), Rhonda Householder, Gay Kline, Betty Layton, Vicki Lawless, Pat Millyard, LeAnne Mitts, Elizabeth Notto, Carol Radler, Maxine Schaller, Ruth Senkbeil, Freida Stehr, Diane White, Marilyn Ullestad, Esther Wood, and Lisa Wood-Hromidko. Over 40 attendees learned about the true meaning of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

...to **Rey Alvarez, Ivonne, Ysabelle, and Cruz Carrillo, Valerie Cook, Melody and Nathaniel Hensley, Pat Millyard, Bob Ross, Kenny & Diane White, Fred and Lee Young** for setting up and decorating our Christmas trees.

...to **Don Genung and Gary Millyard** for placing the star (made by Bob Bradshaw) on our roof.

...to the **16 folks** who shared Christmas Carols to five homes in our community, and to **Joanie Contreras** for inviting the carolers to her home and preparing a delicious sloppy joe meal for all.

...to **Glenna Knepper** for picking up our poinsettias; and to **Ches Gandy and Betty Layton** for preparing the candles for our candlelight worship.

...to **Don Hunt** for replacing light bulbs in our Sanctuary.

...to **All** who brought gifts and food for the families we sponsored at Christmastime. More than 60 folks were blessed with your generosity! A special thanks to **Don Genung and Gay Kline** for organizing the gifts brought in, to **Bernie & Esther Miley** for their gift of bikes distributed to several of the families...to **Melody and Nathaniel Hensley** for organizing and sorting the food items...and to **Joanie Contreras and Melody** for delivering all of the goodies to the families.

*Dear Esther and Ladies of Santa Cruz – Thank you for the luncheon served in honor of our dear Aileen & Howard Johnson. To Esther who put the plans into motion, I cannot seem to thank you enough. And to all the ladies who organized and collected the food, I am sincerely thankful. May all the thoughtful things you do for others be returned to you tenfold.*

*With sincere gratitude, Helen & John Kovac*

## YOUTH NEWS...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – The new format initiated last fall has worked well for the younger grades. We will continue with those lessons starting Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet for those lessons, activities, or snacks is on the Kiosk. We will be revisiting Moses and Joseph, then on to Lent and the Easter Story. Openings are held in the fellowship hall at 9:15 AM.

**HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** will resume January 8<sup>th</sup> also, but will hold their own class in the Youth Room. Melody Hensley will once again moderate the discussions regarding life, justice, passions, and *What Would Jesus Say*.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS** are welcomed to join either the high school class or Pastor Jim's Bible class in the Sanctuary. Both high school and college students are welcomed to sign up for helping the younger group with their lessons, activities, or snacks.

**CRAFT WORKSHOPS** will resume on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Come to this gathering with ideas for our annual bazaar AND a dish to pass for the pot luck. Our craft group meets at 9:30 on Tuesdays each week, January- May, September and October. Join the group!

## IT'S HAPPENING JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>!

...**Bishop Steven Talmage** will be with us during both worship times with Pastor Jim leading our worship and Bishop Talmage preaching. During the Bible Class time, Bishop Talmage will lead a discussion and welcome questions. **Please bring a pie to share between worship times.**

...at 11:45 AM the fun begins with an **Enchilada supper and Talent Show**. There will be singing, dancing, skits, instrumental music, and some great crowd interactive selections. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from any of our youth. This fund raiser is part of our ongoing effort to raise funds for eight of our Youth and two chaperones to attend 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. If you would like to participate with a poem, reading, dance, song, magic, or any other talent, please contact Carol Radler for a slot on the program.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM!** If you are interested in our Angel Tree and Food Box programs, our Kindness Crew (random acts of kindness within our local area), or community outreach, Melody Hensley would like to know. Please give her a call at 908-9340. It would be great to have some folks to call on as needs arise.

### **HOW'S OUR GIVING?**

(General Fund + Benevolence Giving, 2011)

	Current	Building
Our Giving (thru Nov.)	\$138,735	\$ 24,597
Our Expenses (thru Nov.)	<u>\$149,552</u>	<u>\$ 25,124</u>
Difference	\$ (10,817)	\$ (527)
Carryover 2010	<u>( 6,087)</u>	<u>491</u>
Total (thru Nov.)	\$ (16,904)	\$ (33)

### **SANTA CRUZ LIBRARY**

*Sew Sunny Homestyle*  
by Tone Finnanger

*Archeology of the New Testament*  
by Jack Finegan (ref.)

*Have a Little Faith*  
book on tape