



St. Armands Key  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Grounded in Christ † Building Relationships † Transforming Lives  
Within our Walls and Beyond*

January 2020



*A New Year*

*A New Opportunity*

*A New Commitment*

*.... to Love*

40 North Adams Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34236

941.388.1234 / saklc.com

## *from Pastor Ken*

In 1885, the poet Christina Rossetti published the following verses, which have since become a Christmas classic:

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.



To the Christian, this is not mere schmaltz, for as St. Paul writes, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (*1 Corinthians 13:13*). As St. Armands Key Lutheran Church enters into a new year filled with excitement and possibility, it is appropriate to remind ourselves that we are a **congregation of love**:

### Love towards **God**...

Worship – Rich in tradition with an openness to the new.

Music – An ongoing emphasis enriching the congregation and our community.

### Love towards **neighbor**...

Generous financial support via SAKLC Foundation and Social Ministry grants.

Hands-on – Social Ministry volunteering, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

Micha Mandate Ministry – Support of legal refugees, working with SURE, etc.

### Love towards **each other**...

Christian formation.

Pastoral care.

Renewed emphasis fellowship events and fellowship hour.

***At SAKLC in 2020, "Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.***

A Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

***Pastor Blyth***

*A Note from John Teller - Congregational President*



I hope everyone enjoyed a blessed Christmas with family and friends. As we enter the New Year, I invite all of you to move forward with a new 2020 Vision. I encourage everyone to enter the New Year with fresh eyes, ears and hearts, so that together we can accomplish even more in 2020!

The Finance Committee is working along with Council in preparation for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, between services from 10:15 - 11:00 AM. In addition to that, the Finance Committee will be holding workshops discussing our 2020 budget in January during the Adult Forum. Please look for the schedule, or contact Arlene Webb.

The church house renovations are progressing well, with the hope that it will be completed by January 1st. If you are not aware, I would like to inform you that Pastor Ken and Amy will be renting the church house upon completion. This not only works out well for Pastor Ken and Amy, but it will also benefit SAKLC and the use of the Meditation Garden. I especially want to thank Bob Webb for all he has done to get this project completed.

An update on the sacristy and the water damage. . . The council has been very busy working on an overall plan, with professional and legal help, to remedy the situation and complete the reconstruction of the sacristy. Hopefully by the Annual Meeting, I will be able to be a little more open regarding some of the details and explain exactly what we will be doing. Our legal team has asked the council and others involved, to keep the information confidential at this time.

In closing, I urge everyone to read the Annual Report when it becomes available and attend the Annual Meeting on January 26th.

*It's up to all of us to be part of SAKLC's 2020 Vision forward! Happy New Year!*

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\* *Photo Directory - Last Chance!* \*  
\* If you have not had your photo taken for the new directory, make an \*  
\* appointment on the dates offered in January, the 22nd through the \*  
\* 25th, ASAP. Make your appointment online following the link provided \*  
\* at [www.saklc.com](http://www.saklc.com) under Helpful Links, or call the office during office \*  
\* hours and speak with Wendy to schedule an appointment - \*  
\* 941.388.1234. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Music

January 2020



We are all familiar with the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child”. In a similar way, it takes many dedicated people to create the thriving music program we have here at SAKLC. Our Advent and Christmas Eve services were filled with music by composers old and new, in a variety of styles. I extend my thanks to each and every one of our singers in Chancel Choir and

Team Spirit, our Choral Scholars, the SAKLC Ringers, our superb brass and timpani players, and all our guest instrumentalists for all their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

In the space of about just one month, our SAKLC musicians presented the Christ the King hymn festival, participated in the Longboat Key Interfaith Thanksgiving service, led a festive Carol Sing as part of Christmas on the Circle, offered a full cantata (accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra) on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, and led 2 extraordinary services on Christmas Eve — pretty amazing, I think, for an all-volunteer program! Many of these programs brought many visitors into our church who left wowed by our program - thank you, SAKLC musicians, for being such terrific ambassadors of our church!

If you are a PBS viewer, you may have seen some familiar faces on your televisions this season. Three of our choral scholars were part of the University of Tampa's televised holiday special. We are so proud of Nina, Miranda, and Kevin.



Please watch the bulletin announcements and the weekly "Connections" email for information regarding upcoming programs.

We will have two more "Sounds al Fresco" programs in January, on the 4th (Crosby+Lane), and on the 18th (Jazz DaddyOs) - both at 6:00pm in the Meditation Garden (or Fellowship Hall, depending on weather).

There will be new "Music for All" workshop opportunities offered:

- Group piano class
- Stories behind the hymns (single afternoon program with lunch)
- Sing-a-long of Faure's "Requiem" (single afternoon event, open to all)

As we enter a new calendar year, please accept my very best wishes to each one of you for a 2020 that is healthy, peaceful, and filled with joy. Our Christmas hymns are filled with wonderful imagery and poetry. The third stanza of "Away in a Manger" offers a most special prayer, one particularly fitting as we start a new year:

"Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

**Michael J. Bodnyk**  
Minister of Music

## The SAKLC STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM ....

.... at its December meeting continued discussion of Dr. Kenneth Haugk's helpful insights found in the book *"Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart."* Last month in *Keynotes* {December 2019}, I shared with readers seven statements commonly used in our everyday vocabularies that can often bring hurt, rather than healing, to people who are suffering. My article was received with some favorable comments from readers, several of whom acknowledged their own guilt in using such language in everyday speech.

This month, I seek to share further insights provided by the founder and Executive Director of Stephen Ministry. Dr. Haugk makes the case that caring is actions, not just good intentions! Caring occurs when you express your good intentions through loving – and appropriate – deeds. In wanting to be God's love to persons who are suffering, you will be more or less helpful depending on what you do. Fulfill those actions and they bring hope and encouragement to a suffering person; do them less effectively, and they may not be everything you intended them to be.

Haugk's research has shown the importance of a suffering person receiving a written card or note. He reminds us that a written communication can be far less invasive than a ringing telephone or the buzzing of a doorbell. Moreover, the recipient can and probably will save that note and read it more than once. *{The comfort you desired to convey thus has greater chance for lasting.}* To maximize the caring potential of cards and notes he advises writing *personal* notes, not just sending a purchased card; writing with your heart and not just your head *{let your emotions speak}*; and, focusing on the suffering person. Helpful messages are those that are sprinkled with lots of "yous" and "yours" as in the following:



"I'm sorry to hear about *your* ..."

"*You* have been on my mind a lot lately"

"It hurts to know that *you* are going through this."

Taking these suggestions to heart, this month's prayer: *"Dear God, tune me into you, and to the need of the suffering one. Help me to balance on this tightrope of not-too-much-too-soon and not-too-little-too-late. Enable me to reach out with your love and be as consistent in my caring as you are in your caring for me. Amen."*

Copies of Dr. Haugk's book are available for loan in the church library for your personal reading. See Jackie Whalen, Librarian. Additional observations from the book will be shared in future months.

Submitted by: Retired Pr. Herb Mohlenhoff, Stephen Ministry Co-Leader

**JANUARY STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM SUPERVISION:**

**MONDAY, 1/20/20 @ 6:30 PM – OGRAM HALL**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY CANDIDATE TRAINING – MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

**TUESDAYS 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM, STARTING JANUARY 7th**

## CONVERSATIONS in the NEW YEAR

Dr. David Brakke, a much-admired scholar in ancient Christian History, and Chair in the History of Christianity Dept. at Ohio State University, has assembled, examined, and analyzed a large body of writings reaching back to the earliest days of Christianity. His video lectures on the *APOCRYPHAL JESUS* (part of the *Great Courses Plus series*) have captured the attention of a sizable number of participants in SAKLC's mid-week adult study fellowship group known as **CONVERSATIONS**, which regularly meets on Thursday mornings. Attendees have not only seen and heard Dr. Brakke, but they have read and examined copies of apocryphal writings that date from the period of time when Jesus preached and taught; then, they have made comparisons with stories told in the canonical Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

This study of *The Apocryphal Jesus* resumes in the New Year. The schedule and title of lectures follows:

- January 09, 2020- "Conversations with the Living Jesus"
- January 16, 2020- "The 'Gospel of Judas' Gnostic Vision"
- January 23, 2020- "The 'Gospel of Peter' and the Talking Cross"
- January 30, 2020- "The Apocrypha and Pilate's Sanctification"

By their own admission, the authors of the New Testament Gospels did not include in their books everything that Jesus said to his followers. Some purported conversations between Jesus and his disciples are collected in what are called dialogue gospels, apocryphal works that present Jesus and one or more of his disciples engaged in a lengthy give-and-take.

In the lectures scheduled during the month of January, we will examine several dialogue gospels that feature conversations between Jesus and the disciples before his death. Retired Pr. Herb Mohlenhoff serves as group facilitator. All adults from church and community are welcome to attend!

**Important Note:** In late December participants voted overwhelmingly to change the meeting hour. **Beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>, CONVERSATIONS will meet regularly on Thursdays in Ogram Hall from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.**

### Welcome Back Snowbirds!

*If you're back in town, please let us know. There's a form available at the office window. Please take a moment to fill in your information (or call the office) so that we can welcome you back and update our records accordingly.*

*Thank you.*



### ***Adult Forum Schedule***

Please join us in Ogram Hall on Sundays between services at 10:15 am -- you are encouraged to bring your coffee and breakfast.

**January 5** - Honoring our Neighbor's Faith - Chapter 2

**January 12** - Guest Speaker -- Harvest House

**January 19** - Budget Discussion - Facilitated by Dick Watermeier & Council

**January 25** - Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary

**February 2** - Guest Speaker from Mote Aquarium

## *Sharing and Serving Ministry*



In the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW – the “green hymnal”), the offering prayer had these words: **“Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”**

Many of us, when we think about stewardship, consider only the money aspect of it. To be sure, no congregation can function smoothly without adequate finances, but there is so much more to stewardship. Our God-given gifts include time and talent as well. Erma Bombeck once wrote: “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”

At SAKLC, we have frequently been asked to assist in various ways, and many HAVE stepped forward as bell-ringers, clothing donors, Sunday School teachers, etc. Have you ever considered that the Fellowship time is not just for members? It’s for sharing a welcoming and conversational time with visitors and anyone who might join us at worship. But if there isn’t anyone who says “Here I am”, how will the Fellowship goodies be prepared?

Be assured that your contributions are necessary and gratefully received, but don’t forget the time and talent portion of stewardship as well. They are surely “signs of [God’s] gracious love.”

— *Nick Hauser*

## *Library Report* – Jackie Whalen



Our library operates under the “HONOR SYSTEM” with very easy procedures to follow:

Upon entering Ogram Hall, you will see a glass credenza which displays a categorized white binder that lists all of our resources (using the “Dewey Decimal System”). The “Author” section will enable you to quickly see which books are available for each author. You will also see a sign with instructions, as well as a basket in which to place the library cards. The space directly below the basket is where the books and DVD’s can be returned, and there is a sign indicating to do so. Anyone checking out DVD’s will need to contact the librarian, Jackie Whalen, at 387-8001, who is more than willing to assist you when needed.

As books get removed from the shelves, they are put on the “books for sale” cart for a small donation which goes into our library fund. Although this doesn’t amount to much, all is appreciated, and many people have shown interest in looking at these books.

*Happy Reading!*



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT

*"Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God" Isaiah 40.1*

We tend to take for granted many of the basics of our everyday life. Our annual Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Project is one of those events that remind us of our many Blessings and a way that we can be a blessing to others. **Once again one of our members has challenged our congregation to match their \$3,000 donation to this effort to be a blessing to others.** All it takes is a bar of soap, a toothbrush, a comb, nail clippers, and a towel to gift others with basic hygiene. Our goal once again is to assemble 1000 Personal Care Kits. The kits we assembled in 2019 were distributed to Mali. You can help by donating bath size bars of soap, combs, bringing in toothbrushes and/or by generously donating money to reach our goal. [Please make your check payable to SAKLC and enter LWR in the memo section then place it in the Sunday offering.](#) There is a large basket in the Narthex for collecting your bath-size bars of soap, combs, and toothbrushes.

If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact

Linda or Richard Mooney.

315-408-9957

[Kalik200@yahoo.com](mailto:Kalik200@yahoo.com)

### *News from Social Ministry*

The Social Ministry committee was busy in December baking cookies, making fudge, peppermint bark and other delicious treats for the sixty homeless kids in the Schoolhouse Links program which is now a part of the Safe Children Coalition. Gift certificates from a local merchant were also provided for each child.

Christmas gifts for the "Angel Tree" were wrapped, collected and delivered to residents served in Lutheran Services Florida's guardianship program. LSF assists persons, young adults to the elderly, who are unable to care or fend for themselves.



— *Carilyn Reiter*



***You're Invited  
to Abigail Koester's  
Going Away Party***

*Sunday, January 5, 2020, 4:30pm to  
7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.*

*Our young SAKLC church member,  
Abigail Koester, age 15, is about to  
embark on a huge adventure to  
Denmark!*

*We are inviting our church family  
and community to help see her off  
to the 7-month high school study  
abroad program.*

*No RSVP is required.*

*This is an open house style event,  
which will include heavy hors  
d'oeuvres.*

*Questions, please contact Heather  
Koester 941-539-0621, or email  
at: [heathermkoester@gmail.com](mailto:heathermkoester@gmail.com).*

## ***Health Ministry Update — Kristen Bowman***

The next Health Ministry meeting is January 8th at 4:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and provide input for the betterment of our congregation.

The list of new activities for you to watch for in the upcoming season are described below with more continuing to be added. If you have any other thoughts or ideas, please contact Kristen Bowman at [Health@SAKLC.com](mailto:Health@SAKLC.com).

**Blood Pressure, Pulse and Oxygen levels** - Have yours checked between services on the first Sunday of every month — next on January 5th.

### **Lunch & Learn**

Various topics will be covered starting at Noon on the third Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall.

**January 16** - Boost your Brainpower with Food (with Kathy Morrison). Educate yourself how to boost your Brainpower with food and kick start the new year in a healthy way! Delicious food to try, recipes to make at home and lots to learn. Kathy has a passion for nutrition and helping others get excited about healthy food. Please come join, all are welcome. To RSVP or any questions please contact Kristen Bowman [health@saklc.com](mailto:health@saklc.com).

**February 20** - Stress Management for Heart Health (with SMH)

**March 19** - Financial Health (with Brent Campbell)

**April 16** - Fall the "right" way workshop (with Kristen Bowman)

Mark your calendars now and watch for more details.

**CPR Class** - Are you interested in becoming CPR certified and AED trained? An upcoming class is being offered at SAKLC. Please contact Kristen Bowman at [Health@SAKLC.com](mailto:Health@SAKLC.com)

**Fitness Class** - Every Tuesday at 9:15 am there is a fitness class in Fellowship Hall with a suggested donation of \$5. All are welcome to come, bring a friend too. An additional fitness class is still being explored.

**Walking Group** -Being considered for a January start.

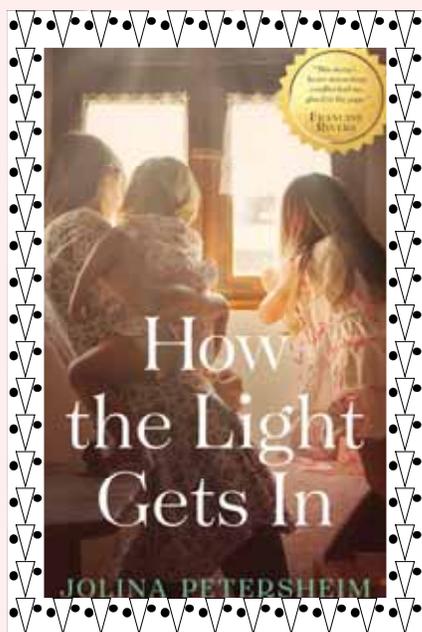
Other activities of interest from the survey will become available as more volunteers 'step-up' to help. If you have time and interest in health and wellness activities, the ministry team would welcome your involvement.

**Call Kristen Bowman at 757-503-5670 or email [Health@SAKLC.com](mailto:Health@SAKLC.com).**

**The Women's Book Group** will meet next on Tuesday, **January 21** at 10:30 a.m. in Ogram Hall to discuss "*How the Light Gets In*" by Jolina Petersheim.

Come & Join the conversation. All women are welcome.

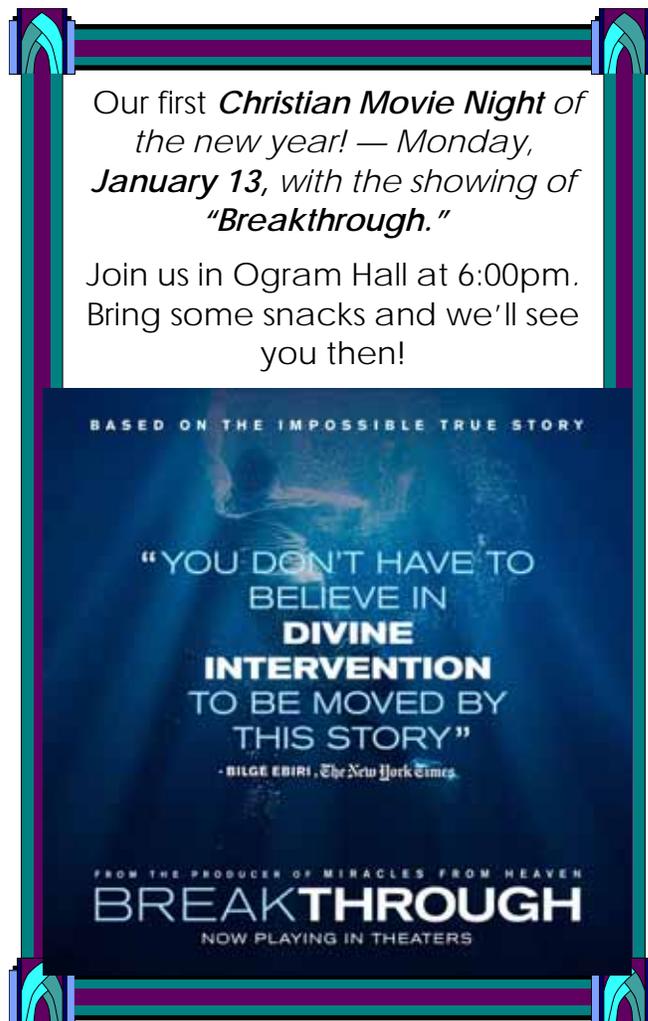
For details, contact Judy Matthies at [judymatthies@gmail.com](mailto:judymatthies@gmail.com)



The **Pairables Traditional Gathering** will be held at Sarasota Harbour on Friday, **January 17**. See Judy Matthies in the Narthex to sign up.

Our first **Christian Movie Night** of the new year! — Monday, **January 13**, with the showing of "**Breakthrough**."

Join us in Ogram Hall at 6:00pm. Bring some snacks and we'll see you then!



**Don't miss the simulcast viewing of the Met's Performance of "Porgy and Bess,"** to be held on **Saturday, February 1** at the **AMC Bradenton 20 Theatre** with dinner afterwards at **Demetrios Pizza**. Purchase your tickets through **Sandy Yakes** starting **January 4th**.

# January Celebrations



## Birthdays

Lore Gollnick	1/1	Michael Tendall	1/21
Margaret Bechtel	1/2	Herbert Mohlenhoff	1/24
Jerry Korte	1/2	Gayle Hogenson	1/25
Martha Lux	1/2	Mary Meloche	1/25
Arthur Borman	1/3	Suzanne Lysen	1/26
Stefan Sultana	1/3	Barbara Jagdmann	1/27
Kendra Williams	1/3	Summer Rentsch	1/27
Elizabeth Garberding	1/4	Robert Schmidtke	1/27
Fred Wittlinger	1/4	Victoria Van Meier	1/27
Fred Nelson	1/8	Donald Anthony	1/28
Mickey Brunke	1/9	Robert Stobaugh III	1/28
Steven Zelinski	1/9	Sally Roberts	1/31
Darlene Bates	1/13		
Dale Dreger	1/13		
Conrad Wilkening	1/14		
Delores Godwin	1/17		
Linda Mooney	1/17		
Todd Heidtman	1/19		
Dennis Matthies	1/19		
Raymond Smith	1/20		

## Wedding Anniversaries

Wally & Joann Nikkel	1/4
Dale & Jan Mueller	1/23
Steven & Helen Zielinski	1/30

## New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
The office will be closed.



*Need to refer to the **church calendar**? Type **saklc.church/events** into your favorite web browser search or address bar and hit enter. Need routine access to the calendar? Bookmark the calendar in your web browser.  
Need help with this? See any of the staff.*

### Church Leadership

<b>Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth</b> , Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@saklc.com">pastor@saklc.com</a>
<b>Michael J. Bodnyk</b> , Minister of Music	<a href="mailto:michael@saklc.com">michael@saklc.com</a>
<b>Lois Habib</b> , Organist	<a href="mailto:organist@saklc.com">organist@saklc.com</a>
<b>Wendy Houston</b> , Administrative Manager	<a href="mailto:manager@saklc.com">manager@saklc.com</a>
<b>Richard Watermeier</b> , Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:financialsecretary@saklc.com">financialsecretary@saklc.com</a>
<b>Bridgit Agsar</b> , Communications & Volunteer Specialist	<a href="mailto:office@saklc.com">office@saklc.com</a>
<b>Justin Kaiser</b> , AV Technician	

Congregation Council [council@saklc.com](mailto:council@saklc.com)  
*Nona Arnholt, Russ Campbell, Doug Engebretson (treasurer), Ronda Hewitt, Klaus Lang, Maryanne Maier, Howard Rooks, Bob Stobaugh (vice president), John Teller (president), Bob Webb (secretary), Fred Wittlinger, Steve Zielinski, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth*

Pastors Emeriti                      Rev. Robert J. L. Zimmer & Rev. Eric Wogen

### 2019—2020 Mutual Ministry

[mutualministry@saklc.com](mailto:mutualministry@saklc.com)

Ann Walborn (Chair), Steve Blackledge, George Dancigers, Jaclyn Campbell,  
Kristen Bowman, Darlene Hauser