



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(916) 421-5039
www.slelca.org
office@slelca.org
Pastor Rob Williamson
pastorrob@slelca.org



News & Views

Pastoral Perspective

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word.
- John 1:1

Grace and peace to you all! I pray that the new year calendar year has started with blessings, be they large or small.

What an exciting year this is for St. Luke's! We look ahead toward the coming celebrations: our first Easter together, the 100th anniversary of our congregation, and many other joyous opportunities to raise our voices to God in praise of what God is doing here in our midst. As the scripture says: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Now that the calendar year has begun and the madcap times of Christmas are nearly behind us, I would like to offer a few opportunities.

1) I am regularly in the office Tuesday through Thursday, usually starting around 10 am to avoid traffic. While I am here, you will often find the door to the office unlocked. There is a reason for this: I invite you to stop by, say hello, and even drop in for a chat. Do you have something you wanted to talk to me about? Are you wondering why something in worship changed? Is there just something on your mind and you need a safe place to talk about it without judgment? This is why I'm here.

Starting in the new year, I'm going to put a weekly calendar up next to my office door. This will run from Monday to the next Sunday, so you'll be able to come in Sunday morning and see when I will be in the office and available to talk. During these office hours, I invite you to come in and talk about whatever is on your mind.

2) While I have been getting to know you all through our conversations, and while you have all been getting to know me through the same conversations and through worship, I want to deepen my understanding of this congregation and what makes each of you a part of this tapestry of faith. I would like to meet with each of you, either individually or as a family group, so we can talk about who we are, where we come from, and what makes up our unique lives and experiences.

continues.....

The reason for this is three-fold: first, it helps me know how best I can serve here as pastor; second, it lets me know what gifts you have that can be used in service of God here at St. Luke's; and third, it helps me with names, and I am really bad at remembering names. Like, really bad. I'll have a sign-up sheet starting the second Sunday in January for people to indicate whether they have time during the day or in the evenings, so I can start to contact and make plans accordingly. I look forward to getting to know you all better!

3) Starting in late January/early February, I will start a new Adult Forum time on Sundays regarding something in our lives as Christians and Lutherans. The first will be five weeks on the liturgy itself, the order of our worship service that has persisted in one form or another for centuries. Have you wondered why the service is split up the way it is? Why is the Passing of the Peace right before Holy Communion? What is liturgy for in the first place? This discussion series will answer these questions, as well as others, and give us a new appreciation for our liturgical worship.

I invite you to consider other topics you would like to talk about or even that you want to lead, and I hope to see you in our talks on liturgy.

4) We will have a New Members Class starting in February. This is good for those who want to know more about the Lutheran beliefs before joining or for people who want to refresh what they learned years ago in Confirmation. More about this will be coming soon.

That's all for now, so I leave you with a blessing: As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.

- Pr. Rob



You are invited to join us in Schultz Hall for our Epiphany Breakfast, Monday morning, **January 6th at 9:30am.**

Pastor Rob will share the importance of celebrating Epiphany.

The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice.

Those attending are encouraged to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake or breakfast

bread to share as well as nativity sets to display on the tables.

Please sign up on the opportunity table in the narthex so that we will know how many plan to attend.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS WINTER SOCK COLLECTION DRIVE

During the month of January, our Community Concerns Board is collecting new adult warm winter socks to give to our neighbors who are living on wet and cold streets. On your way into the Sanctuary, drop off your donation(s) in the bin located near the stained glass of the Shepard Jesus. In early February, we will donate the socks to local charities who serve the un-housed such as Mercy Peddlers (Sister Libby), Loaves & Fishes and Union Gospel Mission. Any questions, please contact Kathleen Arndt or anyone on the Community Concerns Board. Thank you! for helping ensure our un-housed neighbors have some needed new socks to wear that are dry and warm.

Kathleen Arndt, Community Concerns Chair

Soul Sisters Christmas 2024



Soul Sisters meet Mondays in Room 4 from 12 noon to 2pm.
All women are welcome!



OFFERINGS – November 2024

General Fund (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$12,908	\$171,060
Compared to Budget	-\$2,392	\$2,760
	-15.6%	1.6%
No. of Contributors	61	57 aver.

Note: Plus, values are above Budget; minus values are below.

Other Contributions:

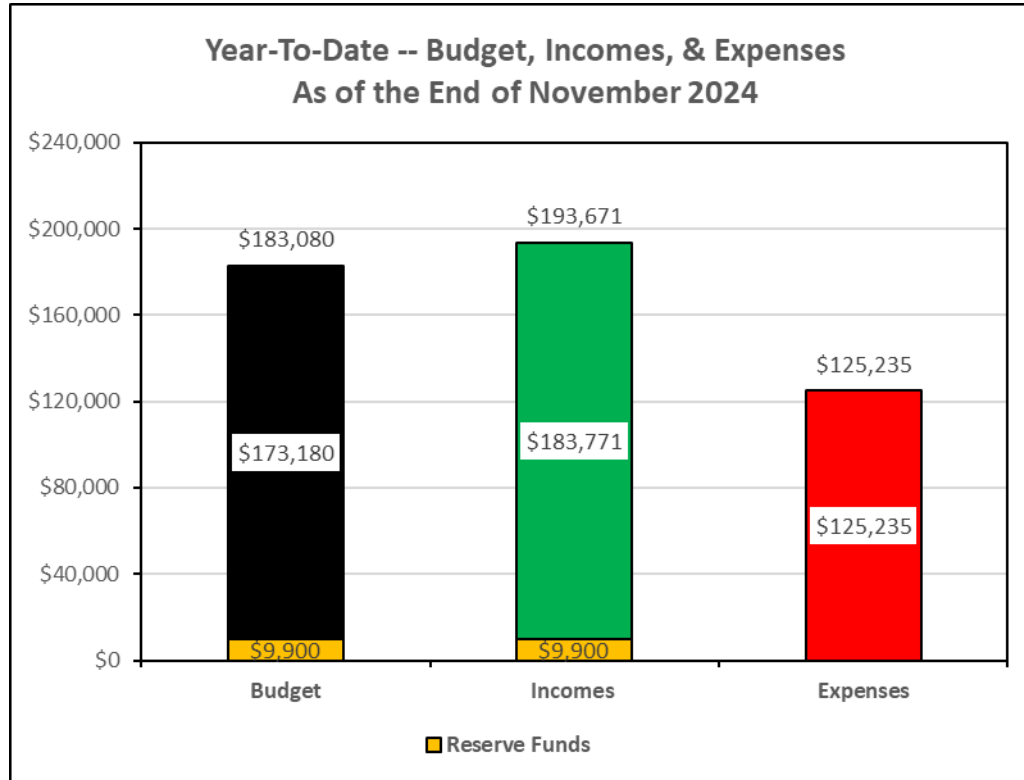
- a. 100th Anniversary ... \$70
- b. Poinsettias ... \$82
- c. Special Gift \$1,050

Comments:

- a. November was the third consecutive month since August, that the monthly offerings fell short of the Budget.
- b. The good news is that year-to-date offerings remain slightly above the Budget.
- c. If you need envelopes, drop a note in the offering or contact me.

Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, LRFenske@comcast.net

FINANCES TO DATE



The graph above compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of November 2024. As shown, the current Incomes exceed the Budget by about \$10,600. The Incomes without the Reserve supplement (\$183,771) exceed the Expenses (\$125,235) by about \$58,500. We are currently not dependent on the Reserve supplement to meet expenses, which is our goal.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)

FINANCE BOARD



Join us for a 9 Week Bible Study on 1 & 2 Peter and Jude starting January 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM, on Zoom.

Dates: Starts on **January 14, 2025 – March 11, 2025.**

Topic: The books 1 & 2 Peter and Jude

Study Guide: N.T. Wright "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" on "1&2 Peter and Jude (Guides can be found on Amazon, Christianbook.com, & thriftbooks.com) Study guides are participates responsibilities to get.

Author of Study: N. T. Wright

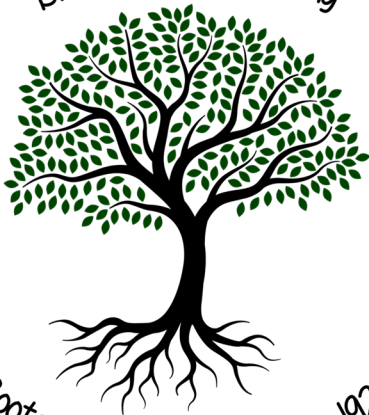
Leader: Marlene Kiser

We are continuing to move through the Bible with our Bible Studies. We have completed so far Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (Gospels), the Book of Acts, Romans, and 1 & 2 Corinthians. We are now going to start a new Bible Study on the books of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude. The writers of these letters are most likely the Apostle Peter (1&2 Peter) and the brother of Jesus (Jude).

If you are interested and have not attend one of the studies before, please let me know, Marlene Kiser, by emailing at (marlenek8626@outlook.com). I will be happy to add you to the mailing invite every week for the Zoom Bible Class.

Carnitas Lunch

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Blessed to be a Blessing



Rooted in Sacramento since 1925
Sharing the Victory through Jesus Christ

On **Sunday, March 2nd**, following worship, the 100th Anniversary Committee will be having a Carnitas Lunch and raffle. Tickets are \$15.00 and include a delicious Carnitas Dinner. Special Mexican pastries will be available for sale as well. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!



January 2025

Refreshments Provided by:

January 5th: Jacob & Christiana Wilson

January 12th: Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett

January 19: Ed & Kirsten Ireton

January 26: Justin & Laura Tice

Jacob Kiser	January 03
Craig Eckles	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Sandra Mansfield	January 09
Karen Linfor	January 10
Deanna Dockter Jr.	January 13
Andrew Weber	January 16
Jeremiah Rowland	January 26
Jarrod Rowland	January 27
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31

Please note ** Worship assistant schedules are currently being updated and will be posted in next months News & Views. Contact the office if you have any questions or are interested in assisting with Sunday morning worship services.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 5th *Shirley Prouty - In memory of parents Jack & Emma Tate
In memory of husband Robert Prouty*

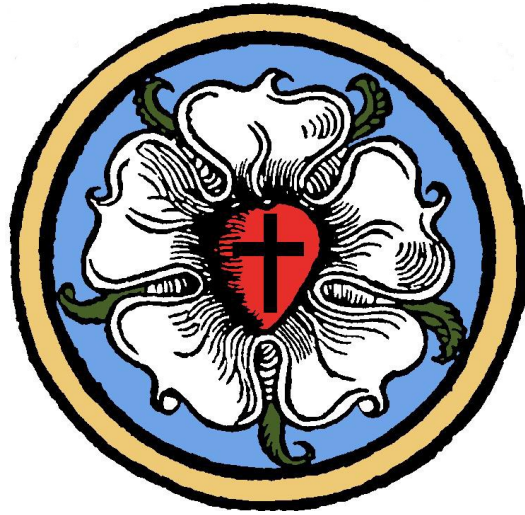
Jan. 12th *Currently available*

Jan. 19th *Connie Reule—In memory of Al Boschee*

Jan. 26th *Currently available*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL DAY

Sign up to provide flowers for our worship services. There is a sign up chart available on the wall in the narthex if you would like to bring an arrangement of flowers for worship. Place them on the stand by the lectern before worship and then take them with you after worship. Thanks!



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.

-St. Luke's Mission Statement