



Pastor Rob Williamson
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News and Views



2025

P a s t o r a l P e r s p e c t i v e

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. – *1 Peter 2:5*

Grace and peace to you all! I pray this finds you well and that you see the blessings of God all around you.

Lent is swiftly coming upon us, a time when we consider the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. We consider what we really need, as opposed to the things we simply want. We see things through a lens of scarcity, thinking back on the times we found ourselves in the wilderness, whether literal or metaphorical, and what it can teach us.

The obvious answers come readily: food, water, shelter. These are the basic needs of survival. But to thrive, we need so much more. As Luther states in his Small Catechism, each time we pray for daily bread, we pray for “food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”

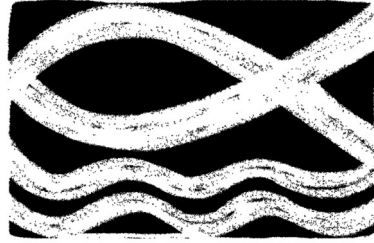
Many of these seem obvious, but at the very last, Luther mentions friends and neighbors, and these are vital to our well-being. We humans are social creatures, living best in a society to which we contribute and which supports us in our needs. We care for each other and use our strengths where others are weak; in return, we look to them to do the same. No one of us can do everything, and we must rely on each other to rejoice when we succeed, mourn when we hurt, and encourage when we feel disheartened.

This is the heart of Christian community, a community we enter into through the waters of baptism. We do so not simply to be connected to God, but to join ourselves to the community of faith we see and the broader body of Christ throughout time and space. We baptize publicly so that we may profess our intention to join with the gathered believers and so those believers may welcome us with open arms and hearts full of joy and love, a dim reflection of the wondrous, unfathomable love of God through Jesus Christ.

We will be having a New Members class starting on March 13th where we will discuss what it means to become part of this community. What does it mean to willingly enter into fellowship with the congregation at St. Luke's Lutheran and the Body of Christ as a whole? This class is open to anyone who wants to be a member, anyone who is considering it, and anyone who just wants to show up to remind themselves of some of the lessons from Confirmation. It will run for 4 weeks, and then, as we celebrate Christ bringing new light and life into the world, we will welcome new members on Easter Sunday and welcome new life to our congregation. Anyone who is interested should talk to me, and I'll make sure we have everything we need.

I look forward to moving into this time of contemplation when we consider how we are meant to live in community with each other, praying that we may see ourselves as one community of hope, faith, and love. Amen.

EVANGELISM



BOARD



Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Each board will be hosting the weekly soup suppers with the ELCA hosting the first supper.

Listed below are the dates for the additional boards:

Mar 12th – Community Concerns and Evangelism

Mar 19th – Council and Christian Education

Mar 26th – Youth, Worship and Music and Choir

Apr 2nd – Property and Finance

Apr 9th – Congregation



**The Wednesday soup suppers will be at 6:00pm with service following at 6:45pm. They will both be in Schultz Hall.*

All boards are responsible for set-up and clean-up. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for donations of soup, bread and desserts. Pastor Rob will be having a short service following the dinner.



EASTER MORNING CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST and EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter morning continental breakfast will be served from 9:30am – 10:20am in Schultz Hall. We will be serving pastries, bagels, muffins, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who can donate towards this event.

We are excited to announce that along with the Christian Education Board we will be having an Easter Egg hunt. This event will begin at 10:00am and will be in the church sanctuary.

Please invite all your family members and friends to join us for our Easter Day celebration!

Soul Sisters

2024 was a very busy and productive year for the Soul Sisters. The ladies knitted, crocheted and loomed hats (baby, kids, and adults) and scarves to be given away to needy causes.

Our main project was to fill 100 Christmas bags with hats, scarves, blankets, games and personal products which were donated to the Pannell Center. 142 baby hats were donated to Kaiser Hospital. 9 handmade pillows and 9 lap robes were donated to Shriners Hospital. 5 lap shawls were donated to The Meadows.

We are looking forward to another exciting year. All are welcome, even if you do not knit or crochet. Fellowship is a major part of our Monday gatherings. Several of our group are not members of St. Luke's. We hope we will see you next Monday at noon.

W-ELCA March 2025



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper: W-ELCA is hosting. Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup, bread, or dessert. W-ELCA will be responsible for setting up before the service and cleaning up after the supper.

March W-ELCA Meeting: March 8th at 11:30 AM. Lunch is a Potato Bar. Punky Dias will provide potatoes; everyone is requested to bring a topping.

March Mission: Mercy Pedalers and Sacramento SPCA. Donate towels, socks, toys, and food.

Thank you for supporting this mission project.

Yours in Christ Love,
Marlene Kiser
WELCA Secretary



2024 Summary of Facilities Usage

The year started out good. We had the vote center in late February to the first week in March. Lent was early this year, so we set up the Multi-Purpose Room for our Soup Supper Services.

The Multi-purpose room is being used every night of the week, except Wednesday nights. The Girl Scouts disbanded their troupe, leaving Wednesday nights open.

Currently we have Narcotics Anonymous in the Multi-Purpose room every night (except Wednesdays).

Alcoholics Anonymous is in the Multi-Purpose room Monday and Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM.

The Sacramento Youth Band is in Schultz hall every Sunday afternoon. In October the band started their Cadet Band (young people) in the Multi-purpose room.

Pastor Carter Tabernacle church is in the Multi-purpose room every Sunday 9:30-10:30.

The vote center was back in late October to November.

Visions had their Spring testing for their students that live in the South area. They used Schultz Hall, Multi-purpose room and room 5. In May they used the Multi-purpose room and Schultz hall for graduation pictures and laptop drop-off.

I have started a key log. If you have keys to the church and have not already signed the log, please let me know.

Linda Duffek

Council Approves Policy & Procedures For Tangerine Gate

In response to questions regarding the new fence at the south end of the parking lot, specifically the operation of the Tangerine driveway gate (*when open, when locked, etc.*), the Council adopted a Policy and Procedures (P&P) for the operation of the gate, at their January meeting. The P&P also is appropriate as the new fence and gates were justified, funded, and constructed by a \$30,000 grant from the California Office of Emergency Service based on the need to improve the security of St. Luke's facilities. This is an **initial** version of the P&P, and it will be reviewed (possibly modified) after a period of application.

In brief, the P&P states, that if you are the last person to use the church facilities each day, close the gate but **do not lock it**. The first person to arrive at the church is to open the gate, and the gate is to remain open if someone is present at the church.

The P&P was developed to mitigate the incidents occurring at the church facilities when not in use, such as overnight camping, and to discourage the use of the church facilities by the homeless. The P&P was developed in cooperation with church president Chet Madison, the Facilities Use Coordinator Linda Duffek, and the Property Board. Linda has advised the churches outside users (renters) of the new P&P. For this to be successful, our congregation and all outside users (renters) should follow this policy.

The new P&P can be found on St. Luke's website, under Resources, as P&P-2025-1, "Tangerine Driveway Gate Operation".

Genesis 28:17: "This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Kelly Boyer, Chairperson

St. Luke's Property Board





FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
January 2025

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$13,431	\$13,431
Compared to Budget	-\$2,754	-\$2,754
	-17.0%	-17.0%
No. of Contributors	48	48

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

Other Contributions:

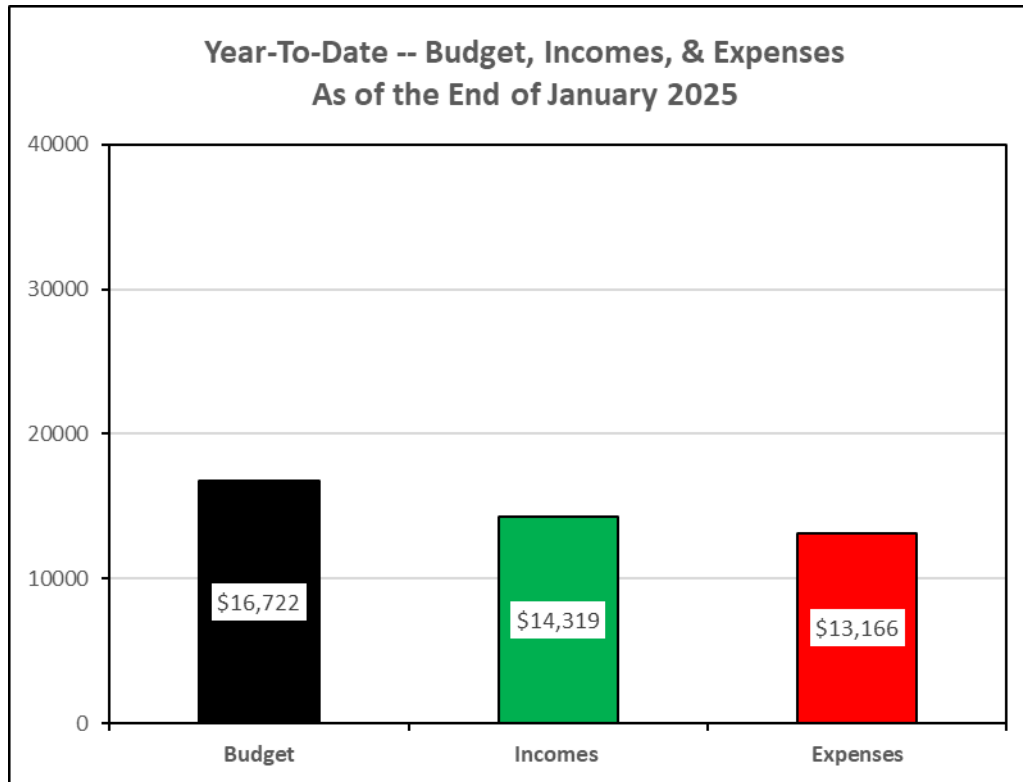
- a. 100th Anniversary – \$100 (Donation)

Comments:

- a. The January offerings reveal a poor beginning. On the bright side, there are 11 months to rectify.
- b. Annual statements of 2024 contributions were distributed in January, for all contributors. If you did not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact me as noted below.
- c. The “No. of Contributors”, in the table, is the number of contributors who gave one **or more** times during the month.
- d. **Need offering envelopes?** If you need offering envelopes, please contact me either by email or telephone or simply put a note in the offering plate.

*Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, LRFenske@comcast.net
 St. Luke's Financial Secretary*

FINANCES TO DATE



The Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the **Budget** (approved by the Congregation in December 2024), **Incomes** (Offerings and Facility Usage Fees), and **Expenses**, as of the end of January 2025. As shown, the Incomes (\$14,319) exceed the Expenses (\$13,166) by about \$1,150. However, for the month the Incomes (\$14,319) were less than the monthly Budget (\$16,722) by about \$2,400. The Finance Board will continue to watch this occurrence closely for any trends as we strive to stay ahead of any shortage that could impact the budget for 2025. Your continued support will enable us to meet our budget as we Spread, Serve, and Share.

FINANCE BOARD



Corey Anderson	March 01
Ghian Akio Reyes	March 01
John Wiggins	March 02
Selena Connell	March 05
Elizabeth Brasier	March 06
Jennifer Connell	March 06
Karen Richey	March 06
Renee Roberts	March 06
Laura Tice	March 07
Kevin Kiser	March 09
Tim Ray Jr.	March 10
Jesse Jaeger	March 12
Ron Petsch	March 13
Sarah Thomas	March 13
Sarah Madison	March 16
Addison Jaeger	March 19
Mackenzie Harrison	March 17
Norita Barrios	March 18
Paul Maki	March 21
Irma Lowe	March 23
David Saxby	March 23
Conner Ricciardi	March 24
Amelia Tice	March 24
Bob Harrison	March 26
Lilia Karlstad	March 27
Karen Kiser	March 28
Patricia Lehman	March 29
Bob Behr	March 30
Kelly Sobkowsky	March 30
Ronnie Gadreault	March 30
Theodore Quintero	March 31



ALTAR FLOWERS

March 2	<i>available</i>
March 9	<i>available</i>
March 16	<i>Bruce & Karen Kiser In celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary</i>
March 23	<i>Lilia Karlstad</i>
March 30	<i>Punky Dias - Anniversary</i>



March 2025

Refreshments Provided by:

March 2

Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett

March 9

Ed & Kirsten Ireton

March 16

Justine & Laura Tice

March 23

Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer

March 30

Holly & Triss Hoppman



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

Please include these members of our congregation and community in your prayers:

Family and Friends of Gail Weber

Ron Webb

Faith Harper

Triss Hoppman

Peggy Moser

If you have prayer requests, please send them to Pastor Rob at
pastorrob@slelca.org

100th Anniversary pictorial directory information and upcoming events.

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



Rooted in Sacramento since 1925
Sharing the Victory through Jesus Christ

As you may have heard, the 100th anniversary committee is putting together a new pictorial directory. Our last one is 10 years old! Some members have already had their pictures taken. If you are not among them, please sign up to get your picture taken **March 23**. This is an in-house project so there will be no pressure to buy anything. The directory is meant to be a way for us to get to know one another better and a tool for Pastor Rob.

We are also in the process of finalizing plans for our 100th anniversary celebration on **June 21**. To raise funds to help defray the costs of this event, the committee will be hosting a carnitas dinner on **March 2** after church. The cost is \$15. There will be a raffle and Mexican pastries available for sale. Please plan to join in for food and fellowship.



I would like to thank Justin and Laura Tice for painting the Narthex,

It looks very nice. You always do such a nice job!!!!

I also wish to thank Lois Sherrets for donating the beautiful WELCOME sign.

In his service and love ,

Kelly Boyer

Property Board Chair



Christmas 2024 Kids Toy Collection Drive

In December, our congregation collected toys and other gifts for children supported by the Stanford Sierra Youth & Families. Below are two pictures. One is from our Sanctuary just before the gifts were picked up for delivery. The second is from Stanford Sierra Youth and Families that shows a few of the gifts we provided waiting for a family to select. Thank you to everyone who donated and especially to Holly Hoppman for delivering the gifts.



Sock Collection Drive – January 2025

In January, our Congregation collected 271 pairs of Men's and Women's socks for our un-housed community. We also collected 26 other miscellaneous much needed items (thermal underwear, boxer briefs, tee shirts, fleece pants, scarf/gloves/hat, rain coat, slippers, slides, garment bags and anti-bacterial wipes). Thank you to everyone who donated these needed items. Also, a big Thank You to Linda Duffek for delivering all the donations to Sister Libby whose organization Mercy Peddlers will be giving these items out to the un-housed.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 2

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader

Ash Wednesday March 5th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
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Sunday, March 9

Connie Ruele	Altar Care
Christiana Wilson	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader

Sunday, March 16

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Phil Peterson	Reader
Phil Karlstad	Prayer Leader



Sunday, March 23

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Faith Thomas	Reader
Kirsten Ireton	Prayer Leader

Sunday, March 30

TBD	Altar Care
Sarah Madison	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader

