



Pastor Rob Williamson
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News And Views



2025

Pastoral Perspective

... [God] saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

- Titus 3:5a

Grace and peace to you! I hope this day finds you well, and that you feel the love of God surrounding you wherever you are.

I invite you to take a moment and breathe. Look around you. Consider the blessings you have: a place to live. Clothes to cover your body. The food you ate yesterday and will eat today. The water you drink. The air that fills your lungs when you take those nice, even breaths.

All of these things – everything we receive – are gifts from God. Without God, none of it would exist. For what reason has God given all these things to you? What makes you worthy of all that has been offered?

The truth is that there is nothing we have done to deserve such generosity. God has promised to give us everything, and we have done nothing to deserve it. As a species, we can probably think of more arguments why we *don't* deserve to be treated so well by our Creator. And yet, we are.

Now consider a triangle. See it in your mind, even-sided, with a point up so it sits flat on one side. Feel free to draw it yourself if you want. This triangle is the Covenant Triangle, our covenant with God, who sits at the pinnacle of that highest point: God, Abba, loving Mother and Father. At the bottom left corner is Loving Obedience, what Jesus calls us to give to God, a dedication to God's will. And at the bottom right corner is the Beloved Identity, *your* identity as a beloved Child of God.

When you looked at the things that surround you, you might have had the thought that you paid for those things. You worked so you could afford them. And that's true... in this world. But what did you do to deserve them from God? What did you do to deserve your very existence? What is it you did that earned you the Beloved Identity?

As Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, nothing. We have all fallen short of that goal. This world tells us we have to *earn* everything, but if we try to travel that way around the points of the pyramid, starting from God and moving down to the left, we will always get stuck there. We are incapable of that Loving Obedience. We will always fall short of the glory of God.

And yet... we *are* beloved Children of God. We *have* been given everything, even though we fail to earn it. This means something else must be true: we don't travel to the left around the pyramid, we travel to the *right*. As Paul wrote to Titus, we are not saved because of what we have done, but because of God's mercy. We are given the Beloved Identity *first*. It is not the result of Loving Obedience; rather, the Beloved Identity is meant to be the fertile soil from which Loving Obedience grows.

As you start to recognize the blessings all around you, consider what this means for your life. How is God calling you to live into your Beloved Identity?

Blessings,
Pastor Rob

Message from Council President

The first quarter of 2025 is now behind us and we are currently doing the Lord's work in April. I would like to recognize our dedicated Committee/Board Members that are working behind the scenes, week after week, to keep St Luke Church serving our community. Please take time to read the News & Views to see the plans and accomplishments of our individual committees each month.

Time is moving so rapidly. We forget to express our appreciation for one another. It's hard to believe that our new Pastor, Rob Williamson, has been with us for five (5) months and is committed and determined each day to make St Luke Lutheran Church (ELCA) "Blessed to be a Blessing" in the South Sacramento/Elk Grove area. Pastor Rob, thank you for sharing your first St. Luke's journey of Lenten Season into Easter Sunday with us.

St Luke's Church Budget/Finances: Our Finance Board does an amazing job managing our monthly finances for our church. Check the Finance Board graphs in the News and Views for year-to-date church budget figures.

March 2025 was not a good month as it relates to our budget. We are looking forward to a better April 2025 with our offering. "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.

Sierra Pacific Synod - Synod Assembly 2025: The 2025 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly will consist of three interrelated gatherings (meetings), including in-person regional gatherings throughout the month of May 2025, followed by an online business gathering on June 14, 2025, and an online budget gathering on November 1, 2025. Please contact me or Pastor Rob for more details and if you are interest in attending.

May you and your families have a safe and healthy Springtime gathering. Don't hesitate to bring friends and family members to our Sunday Service.

Warm Blessings,

Chet Madison

POSSIBLE EXCESS LAND SALE

St Luke Lutheran Church Congregation:

As many of you know, we (St. Luke Church) have been dealing with excess campus and surrounding land capacity for many years. The Property Board has held meetings for the past 30 years addressing our church's excess capacity, and the cost of maintaining this land up to standards. There have been many concepts and opinions as to what we should do with the excess land. However, all must be addressed with upfront costs, and approval from the City.

I am pleased to inform you that the City of Sacramento has approached us to possibly buy a portion of our vacant land. On March 26, 2025, Property Board members: Jack Fenske, Bruce Kiser and Clarence Korhonen met with three representatives from City of Sacramento to discuss the feasibility of selling a portion of St. Luke's excess land to the City for use as storm water retention basin.

I ask that we all give this some serious thought. If St. Luke's had an opportunity to sell some of its excess land at a fair price, would you be in favor of selling the land? If so, what would you suggest we do with the money from the sale? Obviously, we will keep everyone posted as we continue our conversations with the City of Sacramento.

Chet Madison, President
St. Luke Lutheran Church



W-ELCA Mother's Day Luncheon

The St. Luke Women of ELCA (W-ELCA) cordially invites you to celebrate Mother's Day on May 10, 2025, at 11:30AM with a special Mother's Day Luncheon. W-ELCA is organizing this event and kindly requests the confirmation of your attendance, as well as the number of guests accompanying you, to ensure adequate food provision for all attendees. Please register on the sign-up sheet located in the Church narthex.

100th Anniversary Updates



In celebration of our 100th anniversary year we set a goal for each of us to provide 100 blessings to others. To that end, consider praying for 10 people or concerning situations for 10 days. If you have already completed your commitment, please be sure to place a yellow flower on our mustard tree in the sanctuary by the sound board.

Do you have any St. Luke's memorabilia you can share with us?

We are looking for written information such as bulletins, newsletters, etc. that can help us complete the church history, especially for the years 1974 – 1985. We could also use information for the women's group from the 1990's. If you have memories of these periods, please share them with us. Contact Triss Hoppman at e-mail trishhoppman@comcast.net or phone (916) 714-3011.

If you have information about the women's group, please contact Marlene Kiser or Peggy Moser.

We would also appreciate the loan of any T-shirts, hats, aprons, cookbooks, sports trophies, photos, newspaper articles or other items that could be displayed at our anniversary dinner June 22.

Mark your calendar to save the date for the celebration: **June 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** Invitations will be sent out in the near future.



WORSHIP & MUSIC BOARD

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS: April, was a busy month for St. Luke. It began on April 2nd, with the fourth of our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and service. Then on April 9th, the Congregation ended our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and services for 2025. On Saturday, April 12th, an awesome crew of volunteers came together to do Spring cleaning of the Sanctuary. Cleaning and polishing all the elements used during worship services and preparing the sanctuary for Palm Sunday. A big "Thank You" to all of those who lended a hand, the many hands made for light work.

The Property Board also had an awesome crew of volunteers, sprucing up the campus, as well as doing several other chores around the church. When the cleaning was all done, both groups joined forces to decorate both the exterior and interior of the church with palms in celebration of Palm Sunday. Once again, the huge Palm Arch at the beginning of the center row of the Sanctuary was impressive. A big "Thank You" to Bruce and Karen Kiser for always finding those large palm branches; and to Peggy Moser and Faith Thomas for scouting out the neighborhood for the palm fans and bringing them to church! There are so many to thank for all the work, that went into beautifying the Sanctuary, Thank you all. Thank you, also, to the Soul Sisters who took down and disposed of the palms.

Thank you to all the volunteers, who help with striping the Altar during the Maundy Thursday service and to those that helped during the Good Friday service. Easter Sunday was a true delight, with a wonderful worship service, Easter egg hunt for the kids and continental breakfast. **Hallelujah, He has Risen!**

Please mark your calendar! On May 24th at 11:00 in lieu of our regular meeting, the Worship and Music board will be hosting a brunch meeting. We will be reviewing communion protocols and altar care for all those who take part or wish to take part in these vital services to worship. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex, so please add your name to the list we so look forward to sharing with you.

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Andrews, Chair



St. Luke's Children's Clothes Closet Reached Full Storage Capacity

Thank you! to all who have recently donated both adult and children. St. Luke's Children's Clothes Closet has now reached a **full storage capacity**.

Your thoughtful donations are appreciated. But, because of the limited storage space and ability to re-donate any un-needed clothing (children and adult), the Community Concerns Board has decided to not accept any further donations at this time. A communication will be sent to the Congregation if the Board sponsors any future special clothing collection drives or if any specific clothing need comes up.

If you or anyone you know has clothing (adult or children) to be donated, below are a few local charities that will accept the dropped off donation. Check online for more information about the charity, drop off hours and driving directions. Also check online to search for any additional charities not listed below that accept clothing.

Local Charities Providing Free Clothing

Elk Grove Food Bank (Cathy's Clothes Closet) - 9888 Kent St, Elk Grove, CA 95624, 916-685-8453. Accepts both adult and children's clothing, shoes.

Union Gospel Mission - 400 Bannon St, Sacramento, CA 95811 – 916-447-3268. Accepts adult clothing, shoes.

Southpointe Christian Center - 7520 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95823, 916-504-3370, Ongoing needs: Men's Clothing, Towels, Gently Used Shoes (Adult and Children); Drop off on Monday's between 10:30 and 11.

Local Charities Providing Discounted Clothing

Weave Thrift - 2401 Arden Wy, Sacramento, CA 95825, 916-643-4606

Deseret Industries - 3000 Auburn Blvd Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95821, 916-482-1480

Community Concerns Board

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 4

Shirley Prouty

Altar Care

Bob Behr

Reader

Sarah Madison

Prayer Leader

Peggy Moser

Linda Duffek

Rosabella Lydia Hamilton

Communion Servers



May 11

Mothers Day

Faith Thomas

Altar Care

Phil Karlstad

Reader

Laura Tice

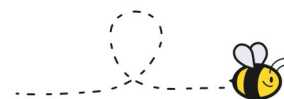
Prayer Leader

Karen Linfor

Kirsten Ireton

Connie Ruele

Communion Servers



May 18

Kelly Boyer

Altar Care

Faith Thomas

Reader

Peggy Moser

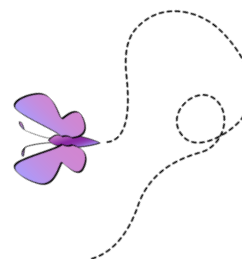
Prayer Leader

Shirley Prouty

Laura Tice

Samantha Basquez

Communion Servers



May 25

Connie Reule

Altar Care

Phil Peterson

Reader

Shirley Prouty

Prayer Leader

Faith Thomas

Andrew Weber

Scott Kelly

Communion Servers





| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Kelly Boyer | May 05 |
| Jeremy Roberts | May 04 |
| Jennifer Petersen | May 08 |
| John Mansfield | May 08 |
| Katie Iniguez | May 09 |
| Victoria Diaz | May 15 |
| Brenda Sulzmann | May 18 |
| Alison Thomas | May 18 |
| Samantha Basquez | May 19 |
| Liza Petsch | May 22 |
| Claire Kerian | May 23 |
| Nancy Minning | May 26 |
| Kennedy Moser | May 27 |
| Dorothy Haney | May 30 |
| Justin Tice | May 30 |
| Carol Carney | May 30 |

| | |
|----------|---|
| May 5th | <i>Available</i> |
| May 12th | <i>Karen Linfor— In Celebration of Kelly Boyer's Birthday</i> |
| May 19th | <i>Available</i> |
| May 26th | <i>Available</i> |



ALL MEMBERS WORK DAY



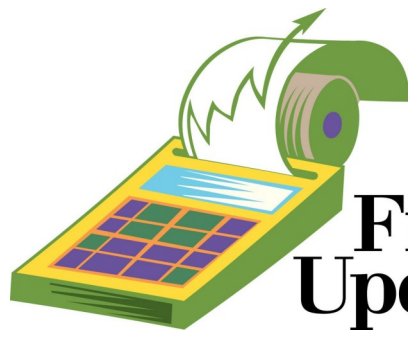
Many Thanks to all who helped in making our church look it's best and God for supplying a beautiful day!

Jon & Laura Linfor
Bob Behr
Bruce Kiser
Brenda Sulzmann
Scott Kelly
Jerry Thomas
Jack Fenske

May 2025

Refreshments Provided by:

- May 4:** Ed & Kirsten Ireton
May 11: Justin & Laura Tice
May 18: Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer
May 25: Holly Hoppman & Triss Hoppman



Finance Update

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

March 2025

General Fund Contributions (only):

| Data | This Month | Year to Date |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Total Contributions | \$17,488 | \$42,801 |
| Compared to Budget | \$1,303 | -\$5,754 |
| | 8.1% | -11.8% |
| No. of Contributors | 61 | 54 avg. |

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

Other Contributions:

- a. 100th Anniversary – \$1,191 (Carnitas Lunch)
- b. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Donation – \$138 (W-ELCA)
- c. Other Soup Supper Donations – \$259* - *Per Council Motion to General Fund, included above
- d. Youth Fund—\$10 (recycling Church containers)** Bruce Kiser efforts.

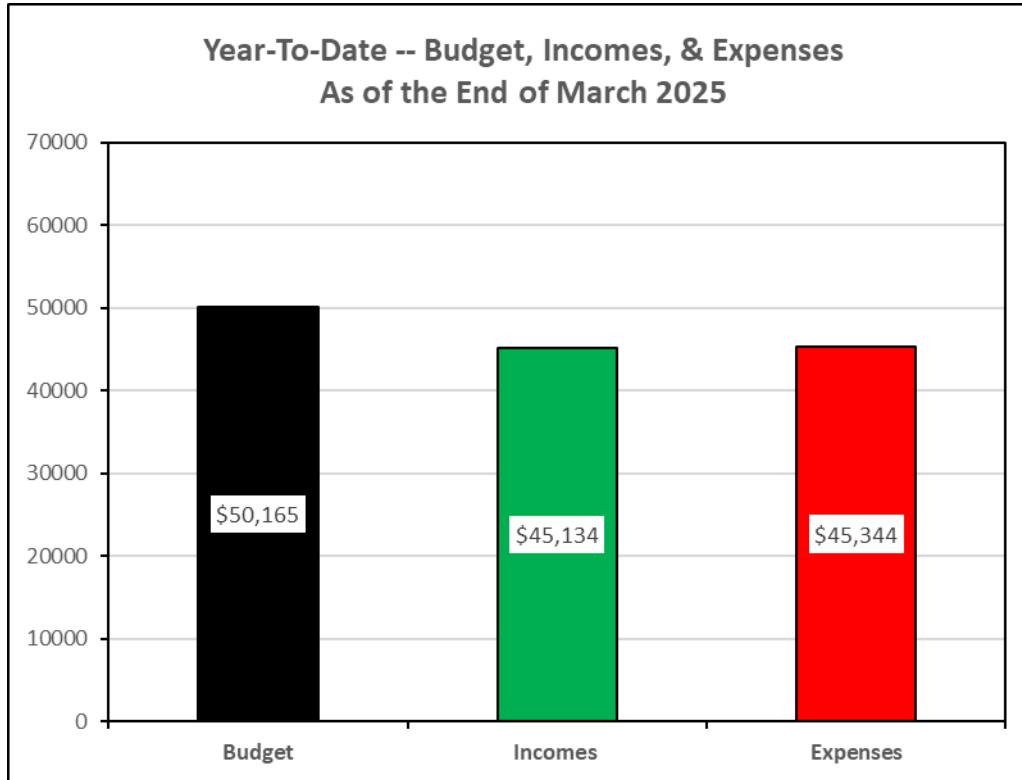
Comments:

- a. The March offerings were excellent and exceeded the adopted monthly Budget by eight percent (\$1,300).
- b. Despite the excellent offering in March, the year-to-date (the first quarter of 2025) results are short of the adopted Budget by 12 percent (\$5,800).
- c. Please note that contributions can be made electronically (online), in addition to conventional means. For details, go to St. Luke's website www.slelca.org and click on the "Giving" heading. A popular electronic giving method is the member's bank's "Pay Bills" system.

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**, **Incomes** (Offerings and Facility Usage Fees), and **Expenses**, as of the end of March 2025. As shown, for the first three months the Incomes (\$45,134) fell short of the Expenses (\$45,344) by about \$210. This was a slight improvement over the end of February. While the year-to-date Expenses were below the Budget (by approximately \$4,700), the Finance Board continues to have concerns regarding the offering receipts being about \$5,700 below the budget at this time. As in last month, we continue to watch this occurrence closely for any need to consider additional actions in order to bring our spending in line with our income. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings remain vital as we continue our journey through 2025.

FINANCE BOARD

Children's Time on Easter Sunday with Pastor Rob



100th Anniversary Quilt



Pictured working on the quilt are:

Faith Thomas

Joanne Sulli

Roseann Morford

Peggy Moser

Karen Kiser

Marlene Kiser

Other Soul Sisters pictured are:

Sarah Madison

Carolyn Andrews

Joyce Mallory

Susan Harley

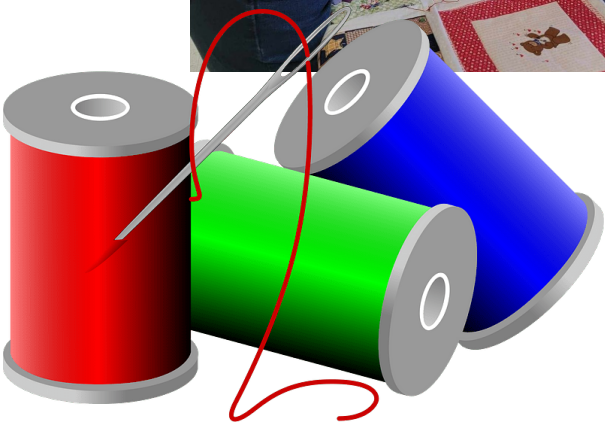
Karen Linfor

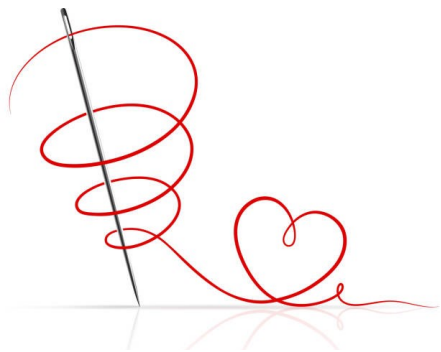
Dorothy Haney

Lois Sheretts

Carol Carney

Jennifer Petersen





St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Women of the ELCA
7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento

Invite you to attend our 20th annual

Mega Bunco Fundraiser

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Dinner will be served at 6PM
BUNCO begins at 7PM



Limited Seating



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
it's easy and fun!

Cost **\$20.00** per person

PRIZES – RAFFLE – DINNER

For information and/or tickets contact 916-421-5039