



News And Views



Pastor Rob Williamson
pastorrob@slelca.org

Pastoral Perspective

2026

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. – Proverbs 21:3

Grace and peace to you all! I hope this finds you aware of the blessings of the Lord all around you. I have to apologize for the lateness of our News & Views this month. I was called for jury duty and spent Friday and Monday through Wednesday in jury selection. I even sat in the box! For a moment it seemed that I was going to be seated on the jury for a very long trial, but I was ultimately excused. What a relief that was! This is the closest I've ever been to serving in our judicial system, and it has turned my thoughts to the idea of civic duty.

The truth is, I had no real desire to serve on a ten-day trial. There is work to be done here at St. Luke's: sermons to write, services to plan, meetings to attend. I would have missed Lutheran Lobby Day, something I look forward to every year.

I also wasn't looking forward to the issues in the trial themselves. I won't go into detail, but the evidence I would have had to see and the discussions I would have been part of would have been challenging, to say the least.

Getting out of jury duty would have been easy. I could have said that I had a hardship that I couldn't get out of. I could have said that I was unfit to serve on the jury because of my beliefs or my inability to separate them from the issues. I could have said that the issues I have with policing policies or the systemic issues in our society would preclude me from giving any officers a fair hearing, biasing me toward the defendant. I could have even stretched the truth about Lobby Day, saying that I had meetings with legislators that I couldn't miss. But none of that would have been the truth, and more than that, it would have been a denial of the very system under which we live. We are bound by a mutual pact, one that we enter with our citizenship in this nation. We are given rights and protections in this country, and in response to those rights and protections, we are expected to participate in its management. This includes jury duty, voting, and remaining informed.

The same can be said of this church, but on an even deeper level. Unlike being a citizen of the United States, there is no requirement to participate in church. We can't compel anyone with punitive measures to participate. Instead, we rely on a sense of duty and engagement to keep it functioning.

What happens when that engagement ebbs? We can see the results in both the church and the country: unhappiness. Dissatisfaction with the direction either is going. These inevitably lead to a spiral downward as more people pull away from engagement in the system.

But this is not the solution. To disengage means to give up agency, allowing the same downward spiral to continue and further entrench the things making us dissatisfied.

The way to create a better system is not to disengage, but to engage more fully and seek to make changes. When is the last time we had an election in the congregation with more than one nominee? When was the last time anyone had to express their vision for what the congregation should focus on? When was the last time we had people taking a position because they had an idea and not just because we needed a warm body in the seat?

Our congregation and government only work when we are involved. If I was seated on the jury, I would have done my duty to the best of my ability, because that is the only way systems that run on our participation function. I encourage you all to consider how you can become engaged, so that we can work for something better in the future.

Blessings, Pastor Rob

DEAR, SOUL SISTERS



3/1/26

Dear Soul Sisters @
St. Luke's Lutheran Church -
thank you for all the
knitted gloves, scarves, +
hats for our unsheltered
guests. I thought you
might enjoy seeing the
recipients of your gifts.
God bless you ♡

Lulu Wong,
Mercy Pedler



Mercy Pedlers

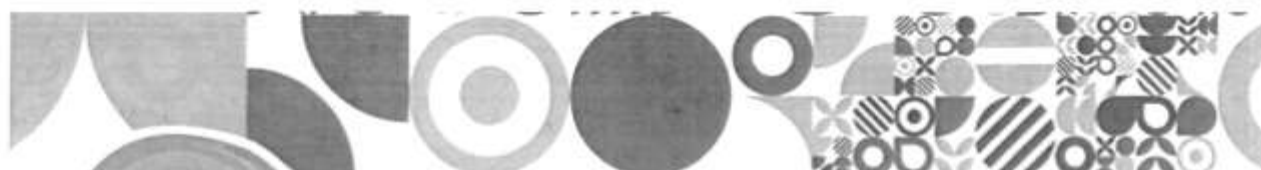




In 2025, St. Luke's council set a goal for our congregation to participate in 4 community events per year. To further that goal, we have planned a congregational field trip to the International Kids Festival at William Land Park on May 23. The festival hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that Saturday.

We encourage all members of St. Luke's to wear their 100th Anniversary shirts or other St. Luke's regalia you may have. We will carpool from St. Luke's to the parking lot at Sacramento City College and walk into the park. Those unable to walk that distance (about 1 mile) will be dropped off at the festival area. The occupants of each vehicle will decide how long they wish to stay. If you prefer, free public transportation is also available with a voucher supplied by the festival. We will have vouchers available for those who request them. Bring your lunch or plan to buy one from one of the festival food trucks.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the opportunity table. If you are willing to be a driver, please indicate it on the sign-up sheet. If you want a public transportation voucher, please indicate that. We look forward to fun-filled day with our Sacramento neighbors.





22ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL KIDS FESTIVAL

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL



The International Kids Festival, one of California's premier free family events, will return for its 22nd year on **Saturday, May 23, 2026**, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the William A. Carroll Amphitheater in William Land Park, Sacramento. This vibrant celebration of childhood, culture, and community continues to be a cherished tradition in the region.

Organized by the **Council for Cross Cultural Affairs** in collaboration with Russian American Media, Community Outreach Academy, Slavic Community Center of Sacramento, and the Slavic-American Chamber of Commerce, the festival offers a day filled with multicultural performances, interactive activities, and family-friendly entertainment.

The festival is proud to have the support of State Senator Angelique Ashby, Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond, and local chambers of commerce, reflecting a strong commitment to community engagement and cultural celebration.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



LIVE PERFORMANCES

Over 50 cultural groups showcasing music, dance, and martial arts on the main stage.



CULINARY DELIGHTS

A diverse selection of international cuisines from local food vendors.



STEMPIRE ZONE

Hands-on science and technology activities for curious minds.



HEALTH ZONE

Consultations and resources from over 20 medical organizations, coordinated by UC Davis.



PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

Raffles every 30 minutes with prizes ranging from children's bicycles to gift certificates.



INTERNATIONAL KIDS FESTIVAL

FINAL CALL FOR VENDORS AND SPONSORS:

Businesses, non-profits, and government agencies are invited to participate in this high-visibility event. With limited booth spaces remaining, interested parties should act promptly to secure their spot.

- Vendor Inquiries: Call **(916) 483-5454**
- Sponsorship Opportunities: Call **(916) 519-6461**
- Online Registration: www.InternationalKidsFestival.org



ADMISSION AND TRANSPORTATION:

Admission to the International Kids Festival is free. To facilitate attendance, Sacramento Regional Transit is offering complimentary rides to the event. Attendees can access a free ride flyer on the festival's website to present to bus drivers or fare inspectors.

EVENT DETAILS:

Location

William A. Carroll Amphitheater, 3901 Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822

Website

www.InternationalKidsFestival.org

Contact

(916) 483-5454
info@c4cca.org

Join us for a day of joy, learning, and community spirit at the 22nd Annual International Kids Festival. Celebrate the richness of cultures and the wonder of childhood in the heart of Sacramento.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Become a part of an incredible, high-energy event that provides thousands of families with an opportunity to spend some quality time together outdoors. Visit the website or contact us for more details.





Community Concerns is pleased to announce that St. Luke's is currently supporting the Lions In Sight International Eyeglass Collection Program. The program assists veterans, unhoused, and low-income individuals who require vision correction but cannot afford eyeglasses.

Elk Grove Lions Club has provided an eyeglass collection box which we hope will inspire you to donate your old eyeglasses. Eyeglasses, sunglasses, and broken eyeglass parts are all acceptable. Please, no cases.

Your donation will make a difference to someone whose poor vision is a way of life.

Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Women of the ELCA
invite you to attend our 21st annual*

MEGA BUNCO **FUNDRAISER**

PRIZES * RAFFLE * DINNER

Saturday, June 6th

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Dinner will be served at 6 PM

BUNCO begins at 7 PM



**7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento**

**\$20 per
person**

**For tickets, call
(916) 606-7880**

**We will be collecting
items for our local
SPCA (towels, blankets,
and pet food)**

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



May 10

Mothers Day

Peggy Moser
Laura Tice
Kirsten Ireton

Altar Care
Reader
Prayer Leader



Karen Linfor
Kirsten Ireton
Connie Reule

Communion Servers

May 17

Connie Reule
Clarence Korhonen
Phil Petersen

Altar Care
Reader
Prayer Leader

Shirley Prouty
Laura Tice

Communion Servers

May 24

Marlene Kiser
Karen Linfor
Shirley Prouty

Altar Care
Reader
Prayer Leader

Faith Thomas
Bob Behr
Scott Kelly

Communion Servers

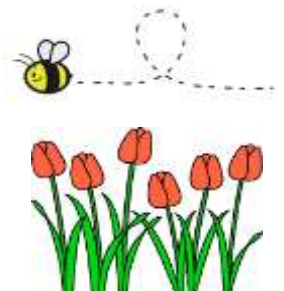
May 31

Kelly Boyer
Phil Karlstad
Faith Thomas

Altar Care
Reader
Prayer Leader

Peggy Moser
Linda Duffek

Communion Servers





First Quarter Giving Update

January – March 2026

We are grateful to share a strong and encouraging start to the year.

- **Giving Budget:** \$48,600.00
- **Actual Giving:** \$50,831.50

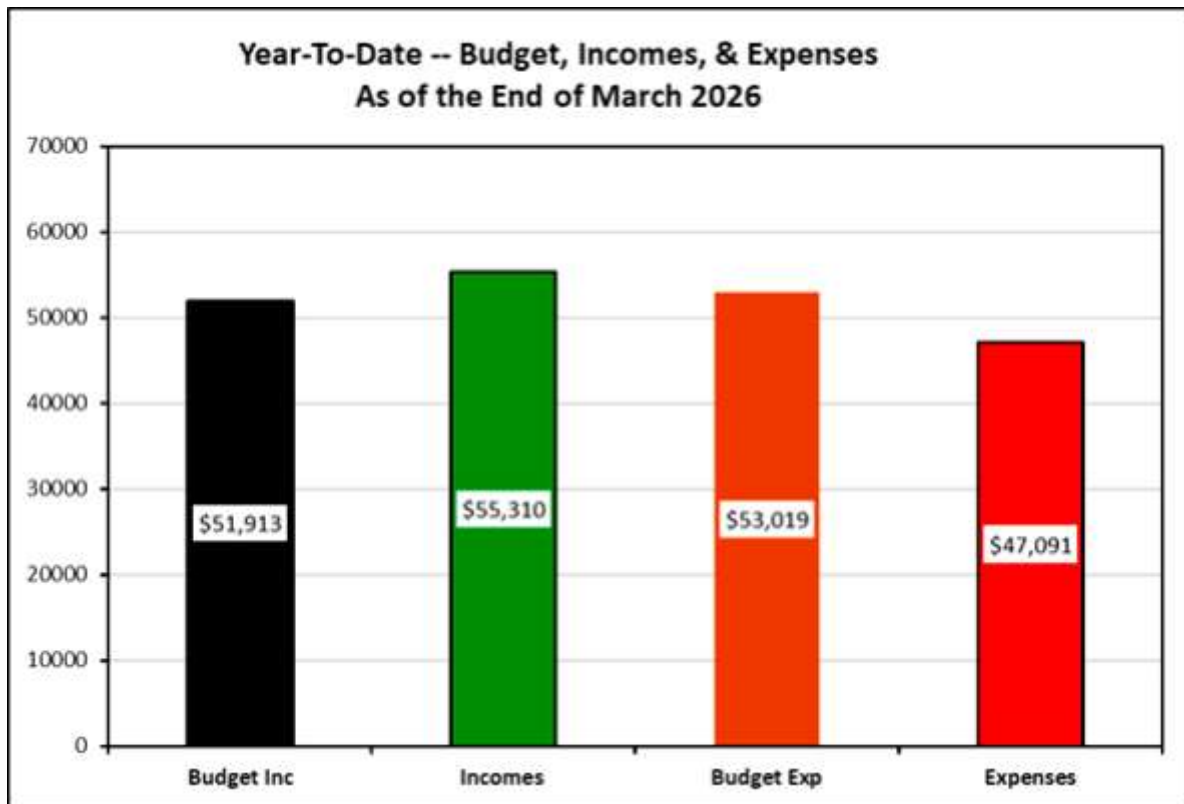
Giving for the first quarter exceeded the budget by \$2,231.50. This is a meaningful reflection of the generosity and commitment of our church family. Your faithful giving has already helped support ongoing ministry, care for our congregation, and outreach into the community. While we celebrate this positive beginning, it is important to remember that our ministry depends on consistent support throughout the entire year. Expenses and commitments continue each month, and steady giving allows us to plan wisely, respond to needs, and sustain the work we are called to do.

As we move forward into the next quarter, we encourage everyone to continue giving regularly and prayerfully. Whether through weekly offerings or recurring giving, your continued faithfulness makes a lasting difference.

Thank you for being part of this shared mission and for your ongoing generosity.

Financial Secretary,
Kirsten Ireton

FINANCES TO DATE



The Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the **Budget Incomes, Actual Incomes, Budget Expenses, and Actual Expenses**, as of the end of March 2026. As shown, the year-to-date Incomes (\$55,310, which includes all donations, facility use, etc.) exceed the Budget Income (\$51,913) by about \$3,400. The year-to-date Expenses (\$47,091) are below the Budget Expenses (\$53,019) by approximately \$5,900. Partial “savings” to Expenses are due to lower natural gas and electricity use, lower facility maintenance, and the “unfilled” maintenance worker position. Throughout the year the monthly budgeted income will remain the same while the monthly budgeted expenses vary based on various billing cycles. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings help us to continue to meet our commitments through 2026.

FINANCE BOARD



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
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 3	<i>Lois Sherrets—In Celebration of Kelly Boyers Birthday</i>
May 10	<i>Available</i>
May 17	<i>Available</i>
May 24	<i>Available</i>
May 31	<i>Available</i>

**May 2026
Refreshments Provided by:**

May 3:
Jacob & Christiana Wilson

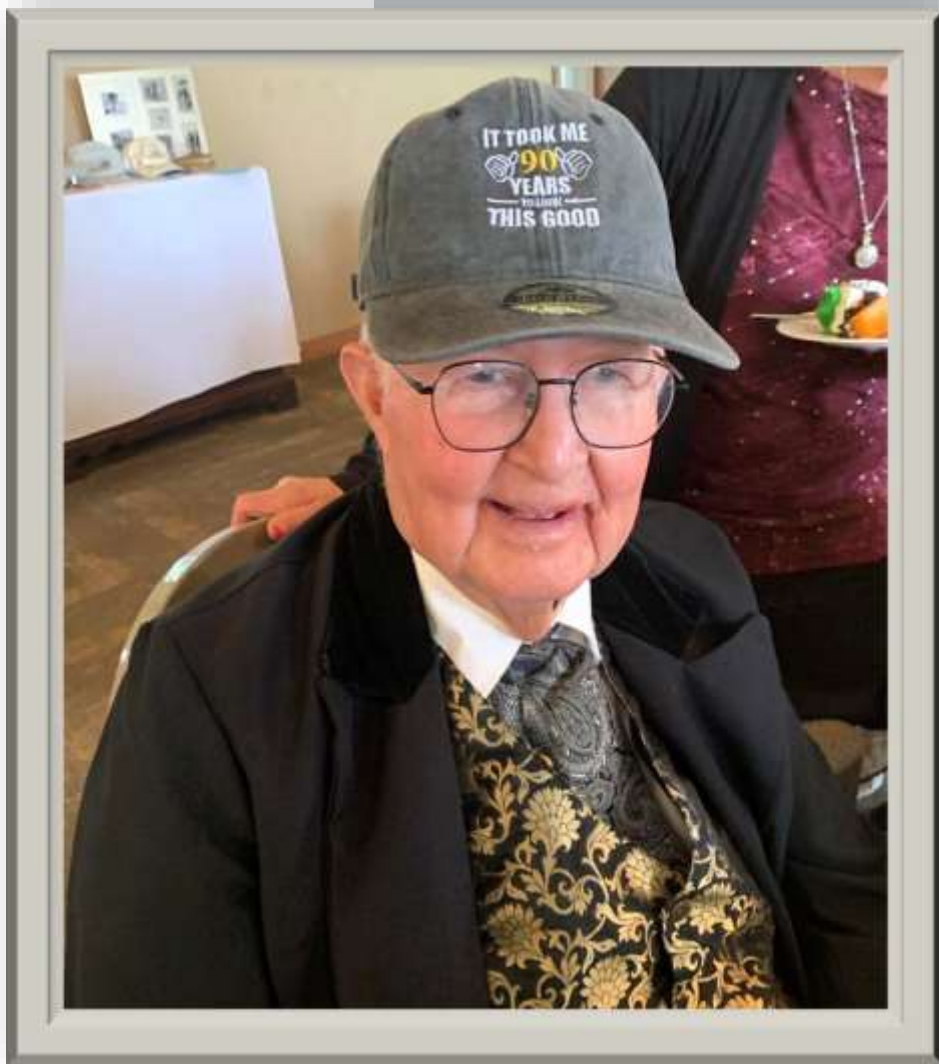
May 10:
Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett

May 17:
Kirsten Ireton

May 24:
Carole & Mack Vance

May 31:
Available





Clarence Korhonen
Celebrating
his 90th Birthday
Sunday, April 12th

Pastor Rob Children's Time on Easter Sunday

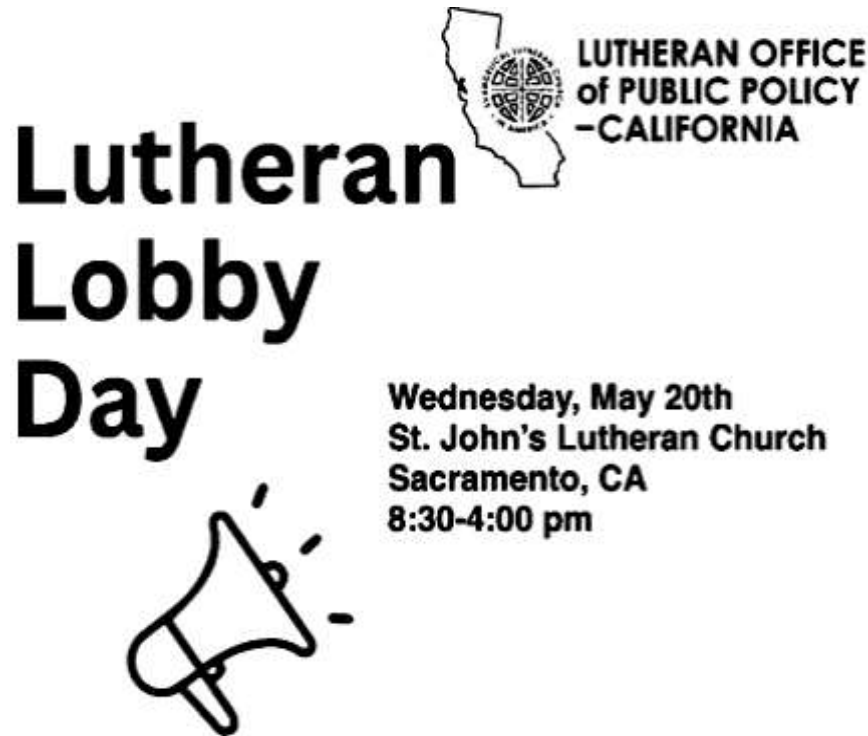


Easter Sunday Baptism



Interested in the good of the community? Concerned about the
state of the world?

Then join us at



Last year Faith, Peggy, and Pr. Rob attended; this year you can too! Be part of a group of Lutherans from all over our state who meet with legislators and their aides to advocate for issues that align with the values we profess as followers of Christ. Search online for

Lutheran Lobby Day or go to

lutheranpublicpolicyca.org to sign up.

Worried about speaking? Don't be! You'll be part of a group, and even your presence makes a difference.

Lunch and transportation from St. John's are provided for attendees. Come be part of something amazing!

Registration is open through May 12th