



Pastor Rob Williamson
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News and Views

August
2025

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

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. – Psalm 37:5

Grace and peace to you all! I hope you enjoyed a surprisingly mild July and are staying cool as the weather starts to heat up again.

With the 100th anniversary behind us and the latter half of this year ahead, the time comes to look to where we place our feet as we move forward. Who are we? How do we want to show ourselves to the community and world around us? What actions are we going to take to make clear our commitment to the work of the Gospel?

We've seen the movement of the Spirit through our congregation in the past few months as we celebrated 100 years of ministry, the culmination of a century of community and a year's hard work by members of our congregation to commemorate it. We had our annual July 4th fireworks booth and saw the blessings of our work returned to us. Our numbers in worship have mostly been on the uptick, and we have people choosing to join us as members as recently as this week.

The Spirit is moving us; now we need to discern where. Part of this work will be done by your Council during our annual retreat at the end of this month. The people you have elected as your representatives are going to consider goals for our congregation for the next year, September 2025 to August 2026, which will be offered to each of our boards to guide their actions for the next year. This congregation has the passion to do great things; now we just need to point ourselves in a direction and go.

There will also need to be some changes to what we are doing. Your president, Chet, rightly points to a growing issue in our congregation: none of us are getting any younger, but the work is still being done by the same people with some holding two or three positions among our congregational boards. I can appreciate that; without volunteers, most functions here are the church won't happen.

But the time has come to shift *how* we are doing things. We need to decide what is absolutely vital and what can be left alone for a while, and then we need to *let those things lapse*. We need to let some things go unfinished so that others can realize that if they want these things to happen, they have to help.

This will be scary for a moment, but our entire faith is based around abandoning our fears and trusting in God. If we are to live the life God wants for us, we have to trust that *God will act*. God will not abandon us, but will provide what we need – our congregation's daily bread. These blessings may not come in the way we expect, but when we commit our ways to the LORD, we will see what the LORD can do.

Be bold and have faith, and the LORD will provide.

Message from Council President

As we end our first half of the year 2025, many accomplishments have been made. I will not go through and list each one of them. But I must bring to your attention our major milestone – St. Luke Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary, June 22, 2025. Many, many countless hours of work with various committees took place to bring us to a fantastic celebration. I want to thank our chairperson, Triss Hoppman for her leadership in this endeavor.

St. Luke's Fireworks 2025: Another very successful year, Lead by our amazing, Larry Dockter. This Fundraiser is a huge asset to St. Luke Church for future needs for our church. Many thanks to ALL who help make our Fireworks Fundraiser possible.

St. Luke's Church Budget/Finances: If you all have kept current on your weekly church bulletin for May and June 2025, you will see that our church giving has been down in making our required budget. However, with June having 5 Sundays and an extra church service commemorating the 100th anniversary, it really helped us come back to close our budget gap. July will be another challenging month for our church as it relates to giving with summer vacations, family events, etc. "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.

Property Board: Clarence Korhonen, Jack Fenske and Chet Madison will be meeting with The City of Sacramento Dept. of Utilities to discuss the sale of a partial portion of St. Luke's Lutheran Church back lot. As most of you are aware, St. Luke Church has had excess lot capacity for years, and many meetings to determine what should happen in the best interest of our church going forward with excess cost. We will keep the congregation apprised as we move forward with a solution.

What will keep St. Luke's Lutheran Church going and doing God's work moving forward? Many of us have volunteered year after year in various committees, leadership positions, campus clean up, etc. Well, some of this work has become very challenging for our veteran members. I ask the ones who have not participated in the various committees please pray and give some thought as to how you can step forward to help your church continue to be successful. Please contact Pastor Rob, or any committee Chairperson for guidance.

I am very optimistic and with God's Blessing we will have a good second half of 2025. Bring your friends, neighbors, kids, grandkids to visit St. Luke's Church to meet and worship with our Pastor and the many wonderful people at St. Luke's. All Are Welcome!

May Peace be with you!

Chet Madison



BLESSING BAG ITEM COLLECTION DRIVE FOR THE UNHOUSED

The Blessing Bag collection drive is off to a good start. Thank you for the donations that have been dropped off.

The goal is to fill 100 nylon bags that have back-pack like straps with basic necessity items such as deodorant, shampoo/ conditioner, toothbrush/toothpaste, sanitizer wipes, socks etc. as well as simple food items (water, applesauce, peanut butter/ crackers, beef jerky sticks etc.). There are still item tabs available to pick up on the opportunity table in the Narthex. All donations can be dropped off, in the bin located at the back of the Sanctuary underneath the “Shepard Jesus”, up to Sunday, August 31st.

Assembly of the Blessing Bags will happen on ***Sunday, September 7*** to coincide with ELCA’s annual “God’s work, Our Hands” Sunday. See the article on the next page that describes more about this special Sunday. Note that the Evangelism Board is partnering with us to make this day even more special by providing Root Beer/Orange Floats to welcome in the new school year.

Look for additional information in the upcoming August Service Bulletins. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Community Concerns Board.

Thank You!
Community Concerns Board



The below is from the ELCA's 2025 'God's work. Our hands.' Toolkit.

"Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully."

Scheduled for **Sept. 7**, **"God's work. Our hands."** is our annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

The ELCA's first dedicated day of service in September 2013 was held to celebrate the church's 25th anniversary. Through the years we have embraced **"God's work. Our hands."** as a way to be a church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. **Our congregations do this work every day** — loving their neighbors and improving their communities.

These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

This year on Sunday, September 7, St. Luke's Community Concerns Board is sponsoring a 'God's work. Our hands.' day by engaging our congregation in assembling Blessing Bags with all the hygiene, food and other miscellaneous donated items we have been collecting over the summer. After the service on that day, we invite everyone to come on over to Shultz Hall and enjoy a Rootbeer or Orange Float provided by the Evangelism Board to celebrate the new School season. Then, join in and help us assemble the 100 Blessing Bags to be distributed to the unhoused in our community.

See more about this day in upcoming Sunday Service bulletins.

St. Luke's Community Concerns Board



26th Annual Fireworks Sale

...and on the 8th day, they rested...

I would like to personally thank everyone who went way above and beyond to help at the booth this year. Having all of you to assist makes the week just breeze by!

With a much cooler week than last year (yep, remember last year, ugly), we were much

more comfortable and some even had to put on a sweater for the evenings of July 3rd and 4th – that's how nice and cool the evenings were! On the sales side, it was a good year, not the best, but good. We sold just over \$23,600. An increase of about 5% over last year. So, after paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, permits and stuff), we'll put just over \$7,900 in the bank to help the Property Board with the work they do here in keeping the church facilities in tip-top shape! Of that total, 10% will go to the Community Concerns Board to be shared for benevolence.

The crafters were in full swing again this year – knitting, looming, folding, making – all kinds of craft work going on! The usual abundance of volunteers who helped out by providing food, water, snacks, drinks, other tangible or monetary donations, selling or buying fireworks, setting up or taking down the booth, signage, and those who spread the word to stop on by and visit us – always help on hand. And food, always good food arriving. No one goes hungry at the booth!

Our list of volunteers or visitors is quite large again this year. Hopefully we didn't miss anyone – Carolyn, Lajuan, Bob, Kelly, Elizabeth, Ray, Tim, Mateo, Mila, Rosie, Carol, Phillip, Jennifer, Larry, Punky, Maddie, Deanna, Isaac, Darren, Larry, Deanna, Betty, Lisa, Vicky, Romero, Gaylen, Cathy, Micki, Jack, Kim, Rosabella, Dorothy, Susan, Carl, Triss, Holly, Cheryl, Noah, Jesse, Katie, Ben, Alexander, Ed, Kirsten, Julie, Alison, Clarence, David, Bruce, Karen, Duane, Marlene, Jared, Rachel, Jake, Adalyn, Jeff, Steven, Karen, Chet, Joyce, Rose Ann, Nic, Dax, Peggy, Bill, Greg, Linda, Lisa, Emanuel, Florence, Shirley, Connie, Jeremy, Renee, Bekka, Juliette, John, Jarrod, Judy, Lois, Laura, Mark, Victor, JoAnn, Jim, Brenda, Patty, Faith, Justin, Laura, Aiyana, Amelia, Carole, Pastor Rob, Jacob, Christiana, and Daniel – phew! We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Ok, one final little note about the numbers. I've been keeping track of the sales totals and the profit made during each of our 26 years. So with a drum roll please – on total sales of almost \$630,000 (including sales tax), and after paying for the fireworks, the permits, the fees, and sending in sales tax to the state, our profit for these last 26 years has been in the amount of ➔\$215,213.18

Not a bad haul and a good job to all!

Thank you to everyone and see you next year!

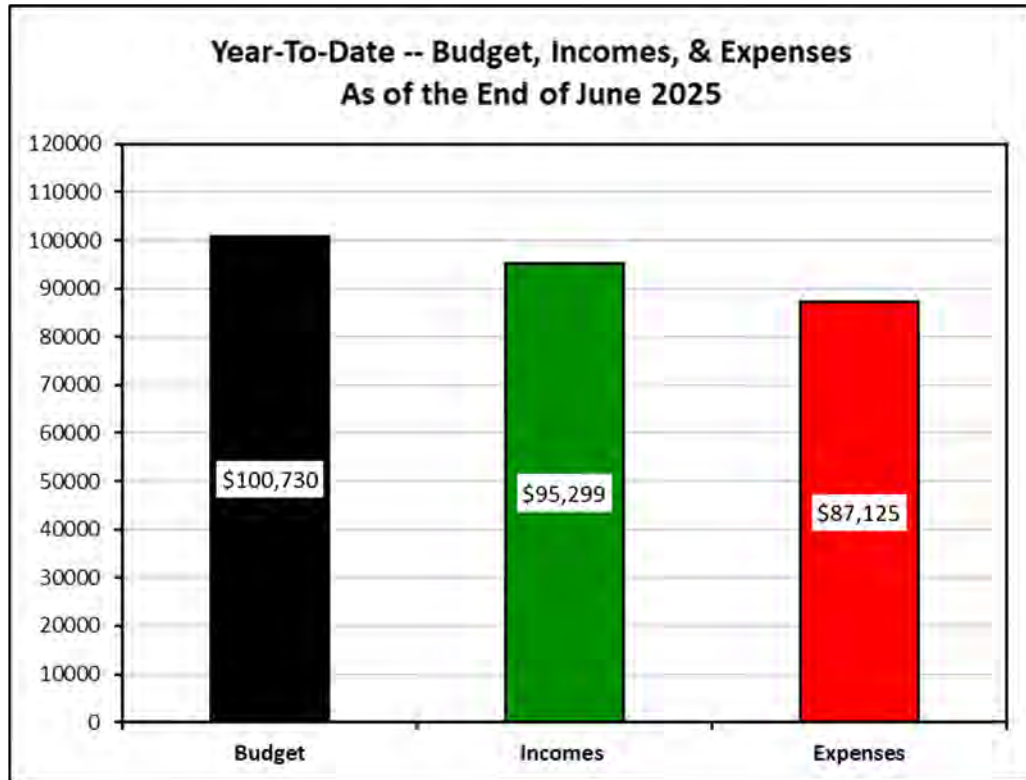
In His Name...

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Committee Chairman

It's interesting that even our cars are all Red, White & Blue!



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 June 2025. As shown, through June, the Incomes (\$95,299) continue to exceed the Expenses (\$87,125) by about \$8,100. The year-to-date Expenses continue to be below the Budget (by approximately \$11,640). The Finance Board remains cautious regarding the offering receipts being about \$7,800 below the budget at this time and with usual potential “down” offerings in summer. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings remain vital as we continue our journey through 2025.

FINANCE BOARD

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, August 3

Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor Faith Thomas Connie Reule	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 10

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Laura Tice	Prayer Leader
Shirely Prouty Laura Tice Samatha Basquez	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 17

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Sarah Madison	Reader
Bob Behr	Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Andrew Weber Scott Kelly	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 24

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Christiana Wilson	Reader
Phil Karlstad	Prayer Leader
Peggy Moser Linda Duffek Rosabella Lydia Hamilton	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 31

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Laura Tice	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor Faith Thomas Connie Reule	Communion Servers





Birthdays This Month



ALTAR FLOWERS

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO
COMMEMORATE A
SPECIAL DAY?**

Lois Sherrets
Lydia Toloy
Alexander Iniguez
Kennard Ferguson
Irene Boschee
Linda Duffek
Randy Vance
Stephanie Espinoza
Jailia Vang
Vicki Esparza
Isabella Basquez
Kathleen Arndt
Amber Mansfield
Kay Yakabe
Kristen Encinas
George Zipay
Craig Richey
Arthur Blazic
Aiyana Tice
Mack Vance
Shirley Zipay
Carolyn Andrews
Iris Schiffer
Jon Linfor
Liam Gadreault
Faith Thomas

August 01
August 03
August 07
August 07
August 08
August 10
August 10
August 11
August 13
August 13
August 13
August 16
August 16
August 16
August 18
August 18
August 20
August 20
August 22
August 23
August 23
August 27
August 27
August 29
August 31
August 31

Sign up to provide flowers for our worship services. There is a sign up chart 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!



August 3: Jacob & Christiana Wilson

August 10: Cathy Davis and Gaylen Everett

August 17: Ed and Kirsten Ireton

August 24: Justin and Laura Tice

August 31: Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer



Join us for
MONTHLY GAME NIGHT
at St. Luke's Lutheran!

Come for a night of fun, laughter, and games
held in Schultz Hall on the last Thursday of each month
from 6 to 8:30 pm.

Pastor Rob will bring a selection of his games from home, including Uno, Mille Bornes, Apples to Apples, and some of his more outlandish board and card games. You are invited to bring your favorites as well, as well as any snacks or finger foods you might like to share.

Come for a fun, casual time with your community
and enjoy some friendly competition.

Do you have concerns about falling?

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.



This program is FREE to the community and emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

You will learn to:

- view falls as controllable
- set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength
- and balance

Who should attend?

- anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the past
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

2025 Class Dates:

Every Wednesday for 8 weeks.

10 a.m. — 12 p.m.

*September 3, 10, 17, 24
October 1, 8, 15, 22*

St. Lukes Lutheran Church
7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, 95823

To reserve your spot scan the QR code and fill out the form or contact:

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