



# News and Views

## 2025

**Pastor Rob Williamson**  
pastorrob@slelca.org

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

The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps.

- Proverbs 16:9

Peace be with you! There are things happening in our midst, and we should rejoice that God sees fit to guide us in these times.

In August the council headed to Advent Lutheran Church in Citrus Heights. I want to thank Pr. Gabrielle Schroeder, Dean of the Capital Valley Conference, for being gracious in allowing us to use Advent's fellowship hall for our meeting.

The council's goal as representatives of you, the congregation, was to select three goals for the coming 12 months, September 2025 to August 2026. We used the SMART Goals method, specifically selecting goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound. (That last one is easy: 12 months.)

Your council brainstormed a lot of great ideas, some of which are sure to be goals in the coming years. Some we were able to combine, others were separated into multiple parts, and when they were done, they had the three goals that are going to guide the efforts of St. Luke's through the next annual council retreat, when three new goals will be selected. The goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Increase regular worship attendance (attending worship at least two weeks each month) by 20% (12 people).

Goal 2: Offer one additional adult educational opportunity each week.

Goal 3: Increase the visibility of St. Luke's in the community, including replacing street-facing signs, increasing social media use, and having a presence at four community events per year.

These goals aren't just the council's goals: these are the goals for the whole congregation. These are guideposts for our programming for the next year, and I have faith that with God's help and trust in God's guidance, we can achieve them. I invite discussion, discernment, and prayer. How can our boards further these goals? How can the staff? How can worship and events?

There will be adjustment and probably some discomfort, but this congregation has already been talking about these goals in different words. Most of these have been part of side discussions. Setting them as measurable, time-bound goals moves them to the front of the conversation. We can consider what we are being called to do as we recognize the needs around us.

I look forward to discovering how God directs our steps down this path.

Blessings,  
Pastor Rob



To commence the Fall Season, W-ELCA will hold its initial meeting on Saturday, September 13th at 11:30 am at the Old Spaghetti Factory, located at 7727 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove, 95758. While the meeting will take place at the restaurant, transportation can be arranged from the church upon request—please inform a member of the W-ELCA Board if you require a ride. A sign-up sheet will be available on the opportunity table for those planning to attend. Attendees may order from the menu, and everyone is responsible for their own meal.

The designated mission for the upcoming three months (September, October, and November) is Kiwanis Family House. Requested items include liquid dish soap, powdered laundry detergent, unscented liquid fabric softener (no dryer sheets), non-latex nitrile disposable gloves (sizes M & L), individually wrapped candy, as well as paper plates, cups, and bowls.

A brief meeting will be held to discuss the schedule and planning for upcoming Fall events, including the Fall Festival in October, the ThanksOffering Service in November, and the Annual Christmas Party.

Yours in Christ,  
Marlene Kiser,  
WELCA Secretary



## **WELCA**

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) will be hosting their annual Fall Festival on October 4th, 2025, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. This year's event will feature a White Elephant sale, Country Store, Books & Plants section, Lunch Sale, and Boutique Sale.

We kindly requests donations of White Elephant items for our upcoming Fall Festival, scheduled for Saturday, October 4th. Donations may be delivered to the room behind Shultz Hall. If assistance is needed in transporting or unloading items at the church, please contact me or any WELCA member. We sincerely appreciate those who have already contributed.

Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to assist with sales on the day of the event and encourage early arrival prior to the 8:00am start time. As in previous years, we also welcome help on Thursday, October 2nd, beginning at 9:00am, to move White Elephant items into Shultz Hall in preparation for the sale. Support from members of our congregation, especially gentlemen, is greatly appreciated as your assistance is invaluable to these efforts.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Sept 7      *Triss Hoppmann*  
*In Celebration of Anniversary*

Sept 14      *available*

Sept 21      *available*

Sept 28      *available*

If you would like to provide flowers for worship for a special occasion, in memory or honor of someone, or simply to beautify the chancel for worship, please sign up on the wall chart in the narthex. Then please bring a flower arrangement and place it on the stand next to the lectern before worship and take it with you after worship.



**September 7:** Triss & Holly Hoppman

**September 14:** Mack & Carole Vance

**September 21:** Jacob & Christiana Wilson

**September 28:** Cathy Davis  
 & Gaylen Everett

Marlene Kiser	September 02
Cathy Davis	September 03
Jerry Thomas	September 03
Pauline Arndt	September 07
Barbara Manlapig	September 07
Michele Sondrini	September 08
Gaylen Everett	September 11
Iva Bates	September 13
Suzanne Zemke	September 16
Punky Dias	September 17
Miles Zemke	September 18
Noella Sondrini	September 21
Jun Vang	September 21
Anthony Diaz	September 24
Gage Gadreault	September 25
Tom Harper	September 28
Wesly Connell	September 28
Jack Fenske	September 29
Ezekiel Vang	September 29
Lynn Gavia	September 30



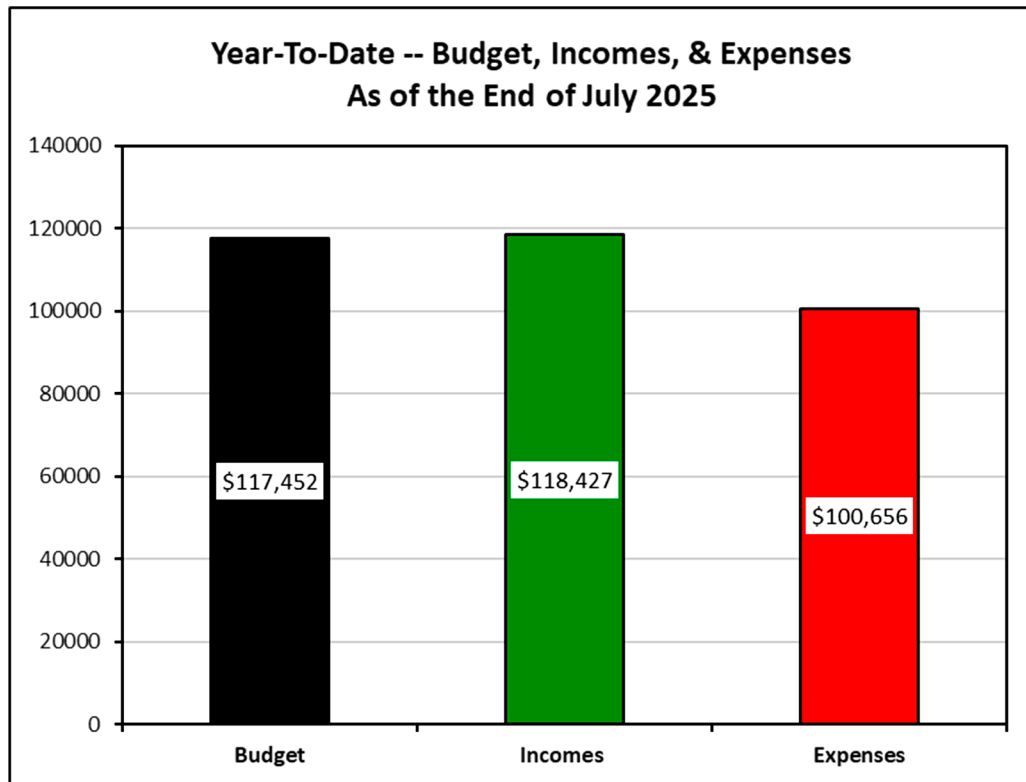


Lois and Karen Linfor Celebrating  
Lois Sherrets 94th Birthday  
on August 1st !



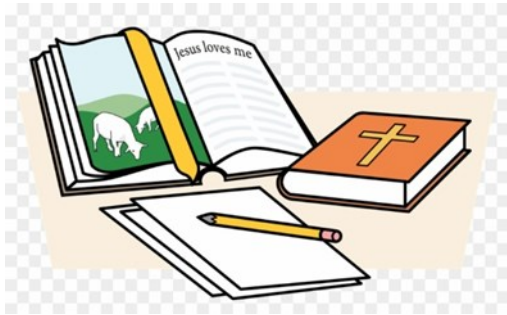
Happy  
Birthday

## 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 July 2025. As shown, through July, the Incomes (\$118,427) continue to exceed the Expenses (\$100,656) by about \$17,800. The year-to-date Expenses continue to be below the Budget (by approximately \$16,800). The Finance Board continues to closely watch the income and expenses throughout the summer when offerings are normally volatile. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings help us to continue to meet commitments through 2025.

FINANCE BOARD



Sunday school will be resuming for the school year on **Sunday September 7th.**

Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month this year.

If you are interested in volunteering to help fill in when needed.

Please reach out to Laura Tice  
for more information 916-271-7566

Thank you!!

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## **BIBLE STUDY**

### **1 & 2 Thessalonians**

You are invited to join us for a Bible study starting August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, on Zoom, featuring 1 & 2 Thessalonians. The first sessions will commence on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 10 am and will continue for eight (8) weeks. We will be utilizing N.T. Wrights, For Everyone Bible Study Guides for 1 & 2 Thessalonians. If you are interested in joining the study and have not been already attending, please let me know by emailing me at ***marlenek8626@outlook.com*** so I can add you to my mailing list for the class to receive an email weekly with the link for the Zoom Class.

Marlene Kiser  
Bible Study Leader





## **BLESSING BAGS FOR THE UNHOUSED HELP ASSEMBLE THE BAGS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

Thank you! to all who donated items for the Blessing Bags over the past couple of months. At the August Community Concerns Board meeting, it was decided that a portion of the Blessing Bags will be delivered to the residents at the Gathering Inn's near-by Elk Grove year-round shelter after they have been officially blessed by Pastor Rob. This shelter provides emergency housing for Elk Grove residents experiencing homelessness. The goal is to offer consistent shelter while providing compassionate care and services including help securing housing/jobs etc. on their own.

Join us in Schultz Hall on Sunday, September 7 after the Service and help fill the bags with all the items you have donated. This is an extra special day as it is the ELCA's annual "God's work, Our hands" Sunday. Assembling the Blessing Bags is a perfect way for our congregation to participate in this annual event. If you happen to have a "God's work, Our hands" tee-shirt from a past year, please feel free to wear it.

As an added treat, 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. Be sure to stop by the Shultz Hall kitchen before-hand and pick up a Float.

Thank you again for your generous support!  
Community Concerns Board

# SEPTEMBER

## 2025

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

### ASSISTANTS

#### Sunday, September 7

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Shirley Prouty	Prayer Leader
Shirely Prouty	Communion Servers
Laura Tice	
Samatha Basquez	

#### Sunday, September 14

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

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#### Sunday, September 21

Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Howard Triebwasser	Reader
Peggy Moser	Prayer Leader
Peggy Moser	Communion Servers
Linda Duffek	
Rosabella Lydia Hamilton	

#### Sunday, September 28

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Kirsten Ireton	Reader
Phil Petersen	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor Faith Thomas Connie Reule	Communion Servers





# 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:**

Ana Van Engelen  
Anastasia.D.Van-Engelen@kp.org  
(916) 203-2012

 **KAISER PERMANENTE®**  
South Sacramento Medical Center  
**Trauma Center**



**Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America  
16th  
Biennial Convention**



**GOD IS SPEAKING -  
ARE YOU LISTENING?**

**October 17, 18, 19 2025**

**Christ the King Passionist Center  
6520 Van Maren Lane  
Citrus Heights, CA**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**BISHOP GUADALUPE CORTEZ**  
2nd Bishop & 1st Woman Bishop to  
El Salvador Lutheran Synod

**BISHOP JEFF JOHNSON**  
Sierra Pacific Synod Lutheran Synod

**PASTOR CHRISTIAN CHAVARRIA**  
Assistant to the Bishop, El Salvador  
Lead Pastor Resurrection Lutheran Church

**VICAR MEAGAN KIM**  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**Registration - 2 nights/5 meals = \$225 Each,  
double occupancy - Registration by QR code or Form  
Attached**





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