



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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January 2024

News & Views

Pastoral Perspective

St. Luke's congregational mission statement is: **"By 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."** We confess, right from the get go, that we don't have the power to do the Lord's work on our own. We must be empowered by the Holy Spirit if we are going to be effective. Jesus tells His followers just before His ascension that "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit has come upon the Church, the people of God. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we accept God's call to participate in the Lord's work.

We focus on three vital actions that we accept as God's call for us. The first is to **"Spread the Good News"**. On Christmas night the angel told the shepherds, "I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11) When the shepherds saw the baby, "they made known the saying that had been told them concerning the child." (Luke 2:17) We then, join in a long line of folks who have seen with eyes of faith that the Savior has come in Jesus, the Messiah of the world. We accept God's call to spread that Good News, because it is "for all the people". Our worship and music ministries, educational ministries, and elements of our evangelism ministries are all about "Spreading the Good News".

The second part of our mission is to **"Serve those in need."** When Jesus appears at the end of time He will say to those who have seen Him with the eyes of faith and so served those in need, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matthew 25:34-36) We know in our hearts that whenever we serve those in need we are actually serving Jesus. He comes to us in many "distressing disguises" to allow us the privilege of serving Him. Our community concerns, elements of our evangelism ministries, and a great deal of the ministry of the Women of the ELCA are all about "Serving those in need."

(continues)

The third part of our mission is to **“Share the Victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world.”** Paul writes at the end of his wonderful sharing with the Corinthian church about the resurrection, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:56, 57) The powers of sin and death cannot overcome us because Jesus has won the victory over them. We accept God’s call to share this victory because it is for all of “us” throughout the world. Our property ministries are important not only for our facility needs but the needs of so many groups within the community to share. Our stewardship and finance ministries are all about the victory we take part in as we share the resources God gives us to use. In our youth ministries we are sharing with young people the victorious life in the Lord’s love. Our church council and special committees help facilitate our sharing of the victory of Jesus Christ.

As you eagerly await the calling a new pastor, continue to keep focused on the vital mission of St. Luke’s. You will then be ready for a wonderful new chapter in the life of this vibrant congregation.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



Epiphany Breakfast Saturday, January 6, 2024 9:30am

Please join us in Schultz Hall for our Epiphany Breakfast. Pastor Carl will share the importance of celebrating Epiphany. The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice. Those coming are encouraged to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake or breakfast breads to share as well as nativity sets to display on the tables. Please sign up on the opportunity table in the narthex so that we will know how many plan to attend.

—Thank you, *Carole Vance*

**Soul Sisters
Christmas 2023**



Soul Sisters meet Mondays in Room 4 from 12 noon to 2pm.
All women are welcome!

Sunday Worship Attendance in December

In person attendance

YouTube views

Dec. 3rd	69
Dec. 10th	68
Dec. 17th	73

Dec. 3rd	17
Dec. 10th	32
Dec. 17th	38



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
November 2023**

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$11,576	\$168,600
Compared to Budget	-\$1,763	\$21,886
	-13.2%	14.9%
No. of Contributors	50	55 aver.

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

Other Contributions:

Thank Offerings \$1,258
(A W-ELCA benevolence effort.)

Comments:

After an awesome October of giving to St. Luke, November contributions were disappointing and fell below Budget.

Fortunately, the year-to-date contributions remain above the budget by about \$22,000.

Note To All: If you are 70 years or older and have IRAs, please consult with your Financial Adviser or tax preparer regarding "Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)". There are some real opportunities for tax savings through QCDs.

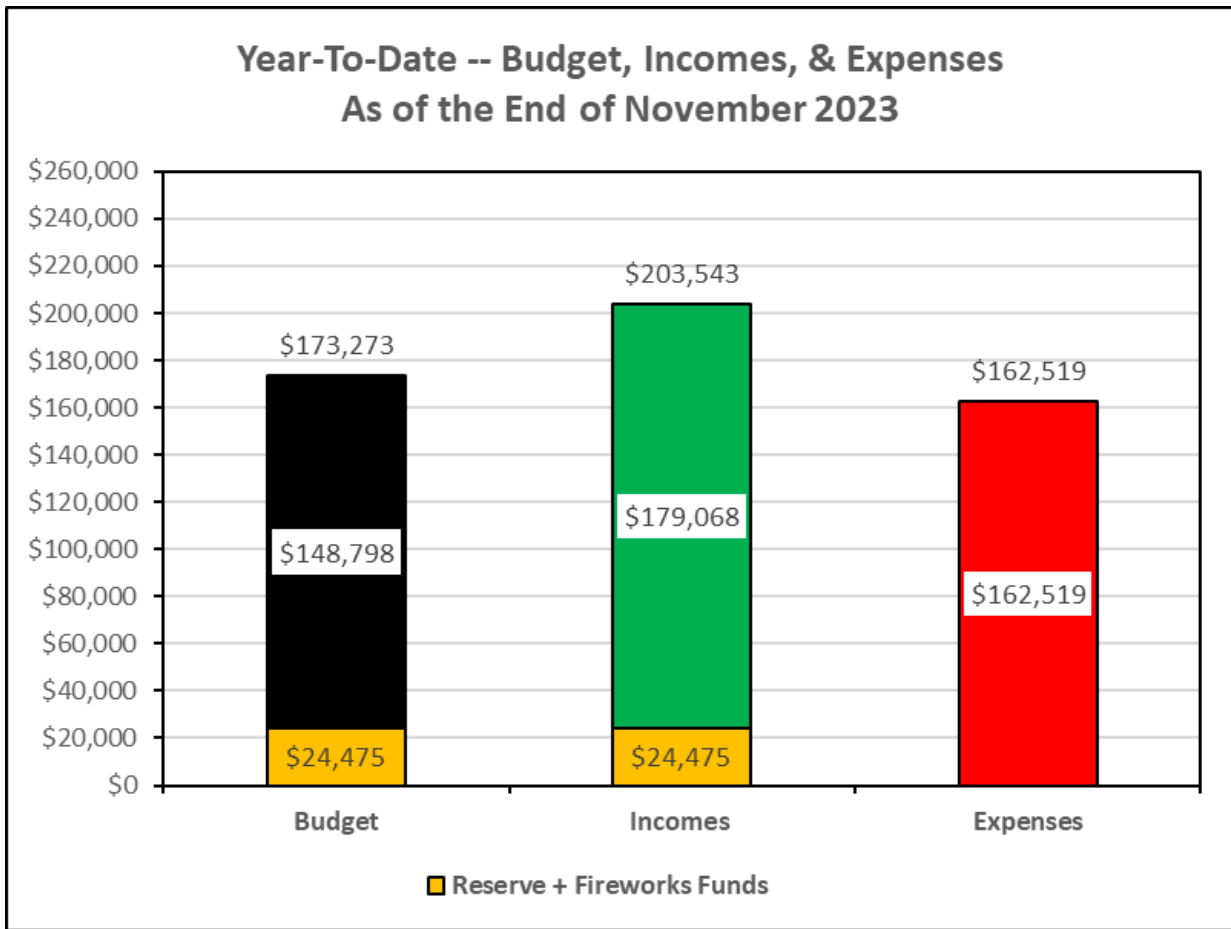
Need offering envelopes. If you need offering envelopes, please contact me either by email or telephone or simply put a note in the offering plate.

[Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, LRFenske@comcast.net](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)

St. Luke's Financial Secretary

cc: Council members, Finance Board members, Special Fund Recorder

FINANCES TO DATE



To supplement the Financial Secretary’s report on contributions, the Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of November 2023. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$179,068) exceed the Expenses (\$162,519) by about \$16,500 which is down about \$2,000 from what was reported for October. Also, the difference between Budget (\$173,272) and Expenses (\$162,519) is primarily due to not having a full-time pastor.

“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 (ESV)

FINANCE BOARD



January 2024

Altar Care

Scripture Readers & Prayers Leaders

Sunday, January 7th

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Bob Behr	Reader
Punky Dias	Prayer Leader

Sunday, January 14th

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Kelly Boyer	Reader
Sarah Madison	Prayer Leader

Sunday, January 21st

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Faith Harper	Reader
Phillip Petersen	Prayer Leader

Sunday, January 28th

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Kirsten Ireton	Reader
Shirley Prouty	Prayer Leader



Birthdays of the Month



JANUARY

Jacob Kiser	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Lauren Orcutt	January 08
Sandra Mansfield	January 09
Karen Linfor	January 10
Deanna Dockter Jr.	January 13
Jarrod Rowland	January 27
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31



ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 7th	<i>Shirley Prouty- In Memory of Parents - Jack & Emma Tate Karen Linfor - In Celebration of my 80th Birthday (Jan. 10th)</i>
Jan. 14th	<i>Lilia & Philip Karlstad - In memory of Parents Pauline & Kathleen Arndt - In memory of Walt/Dad</i>
Jan. 21	<i>Currently available</i>
Jan. 28th	<i>Karen Linfor - In Memory of Tracy Light</i>