



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(916) 421-5039
www.slelca.org
office@slelca.org



2023

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective

The scene Jesus describes in the parable recorded in Matthew 20:1-16 is that of a farmer hiring day laborers throughout the day to work in his vineyard. For people not fortunate enough to own property or be regular workers for a property owner, finding employment was really difficult. The job market was very tough at Jesus time. Folks were desperate and would grab any work they could get. Someone who got hired and didn't have to just stand around anxiously hoping for work was naturally grateful.

The farmer's heart obviously went out to the many folks standing around without work. Every time he encountered a group of would-be-workers during the day, he had compassion on them and sent them to work the rest of the day in his vineyard. It became clear that he was concerned about more than just the work to be done in his vineyard. He generously desired to share with those in need.

The farmer's generous nature showed itself at the end of the day. He paid each worker a day's wage regardless of when they started. Some had worked all day, others just a while. And surprise, the workers who had been so grateful to have a day's work at the beginning of the day were upset because the ones who hadn't worked as long were paid the same amount as they were. They felt they were more deserving than the latecomers. They wanted separate treatment. They protested because they expected to get more than those who worked less time.

When one is down, one naturally looks for compassion, but as soon as one is partially back on his or her feet a different standard is often sought. There comes a desire to have things ranked and divided so that everyone has a clear idea of who is ahead of whom and who is more deserving. That became very important to these workers. It may not have been the money as much as the wish to be set off from those others who had come later. In order to feel more worthy, folks often look to discover others who seem less worthy and then point them out with scorn. Unfortunately, this desire to feel more worthy permeates most all of human society.

This craving for status and separate treatment is so intense that people who have been recipients of God's mercy will actually turn around and point out others they don't believe are as worthy of that same mercy. Jesus in His parable is showing how folks say to God, "Stop being so generous now that you have extended your mercy to me. By extending that mercy to others so indiscriminately you are violating the pecking order we have established among ourselves." Of course, by definition, you can't earn mercy. If you could earn it, it wouldn't be mercy.

So the argument of the day laborers, although it might be valid in a modern-day labor dispute, is irrelevant in a Christian context. We need always to remember that as we share the victory of Jesus with others we are simply sharing something that has been so generously given to us.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



"be guided in all our works by this one thought alone-that we may serve and benefit others in everything that is done, leaving nothing else before our eyes except the need and advantage of the neighbor"

- Martin Luther

We will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2025 and the theme of our year-long celebration will be: BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING. The focus will be on providing blessings to our community as Christ calls us to do. Our goal is to have 100 members, friends and/or groups of St. Luke's perform 100 "good deeds" each, over a one-year period, providing 10,000 "blessings" to our neighbors. This includes you!

Some examples of how you can participate include, but are not limited to: Give \$100 to a local charity; perform 100 person-hours of volunteer service; plant 100 trees with the Sacramento Tree Foundation; pick up 100 pieces of trash with the American River Parkway Foundation; Save 100 grocery bags or collect 100 cans of food for a local food bank; help a 2nd grader read 100 pages of a story or a 5th grader with 100 arithmetic problems, or perform 100 "random acts of kindness".

The year-long celebration will kick-off on Father's Day, June of 2024. June 21 and 22, 2025 will be the conclusion of our celebration with a community event June 21 and a congregational event June 22 with special worship and a party for our congregation and friends.

To prepare for our kick-off, we are asking congregational members and friends to design a logo for the 100th anniversary. The logo will be used on announcements, invitations, promotional items, and advertising. With the theme BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING in mind, and the image of the "mustard tree" as described in Matthew 13:31-32 (as this image was also used in the 50th anniversary brochure), we are inviting you to design a logo that the congregation will vote on at the annual meeting this December. Please submit your design to the church office by December 3.

Triss Hoppman, 100th Anniversary Chair



St. Luke's Annual Fall Festival
Sponsored by W-ELCA

Saturday, October 7, 2023
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Our 2023 Fall Festival is here. Except for a few final preparation activities (see below), we are set and ready to go for a really fun day for all. In addition to the booths our Church is hosting (White Elephant, Country Store, Boutique, Kids Games, Food etc.), we will have 7 Vendors who live in the neighborhoods near St. Lukes that will be selling blankets, aprons, antiques, clothing, kitchenware, hand-made jewelry and more. As mentioned in last month's News & Views, we will have a couple of informational booths sponsored by PI Public Information (PI) in Alcoholics Anonymous/Professional Community (CPC) and Al-Anon/Ala-Teen and a Realty Agent (Realty Complete Group) who lives near St. Luke's.

Below are final preparation activities happening the week of the Fall Festival.

Garage Sale Swap (White Elephant) Sorting – Thursday, October 5 starting at 9 a.m. in Schultz Hall

Join Carol Carney, Karen Kiser and me in Schultz Hall to sort the donated items.

Country Store Baked Goods Drop Off at Schultz Hall kitchen - Friday, October 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Drop off your baked good items at Schultz Hall. If possible, please pre-package your items. Any questions or need help transporting your items to the Church, contact Kathy Arndt or Connie Reule.

Festival Day Setup and Tear Down Volunteers – Saturday, October 7

If you are able to join us to help setup, please arrive at 6 a.m. If you are able to help us tear down, we will start at about 2 p.m.

Festival Day Booth Volunteers – Saturday, October 7

Please arrive at the Church at or before 7:30 a.m.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 7. Blessings to all.

Kathy Arndt, Fall Festival Coordinator



18 Week Bible Study on Romans will start November 7, at 10:00 AM, on Zoom.

Dates: Starts on **November 7, 2023 – March 12, 2024** (one week off - January 9th, 2024)

Topic: The Book of Romans

Study Guide: N.T. Wright "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" on "Romans" (Guides can be found on Amazon, Christianbook.com, & thrift-books.com) Study guides are participant's responsibilities to get.

Author of Study: N. T. Wright

Leader: Marlene Kiser

We are continuing to move through the Bible with our Bible Studies. We have completed so far Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (Gospels) and the Book of Acts. We are now going to start a new Bible Study on the book of Romans. Please join for this exciting book in the Bible as Paul writes to new Christians in Rome. If you are interested and have not attend one of the studies before, please let me know Marlene Kiser by emailing at (marlenek8626@outlook.com). I will be happy to add you to the mailing invite every week for the Zoom Bible Class.

Baptisms - September 10th, 2023

Quintero and Torres Families
Congratulations!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Sierra Pacific Synod assembly in Burlingame September 15-17

Laura and Justin Tice, Marlene Kiser, Peggy Moser, and I represented St. Luke's at the Sierra Pacific Synod assembly in Burlingame September 15-17. Nearly 200 congregations in central and northern California and northern Nevada, the Sierra Pacific Synod is one of sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Please give thanks that it was a positive and uplifting assembly. During the assembly, a new bishop was elected. Please pray for Bishop-elect Jeff Johnson as he prepares to take the reins of the synod from our excellent interim bishop of the last year, Bishop Claire Burkat. Bishop Claire led our synod and St. Luke's through some very challenging times. As she returns to retirement in Pennsylvania, may she know she has truly been a good and faithful servant of the Lord at this time of need. Below is some information about our bishop-elect.

"Jeff R. Johnson, Berkeley, Calif., was elected Sept. 17 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The bishop-elect has served as pastor of University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley and as a member of the Spiritual Care Team at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, since 2013. Previously he served as pastor of First United Lutheran Church in San Francisco (1990-1999), as a mission developer for Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries in San Francisco (1990-1995), as HIV education director for Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (1988-1989), as assistant night minister for San Francisco Night Ministry (1987-1988), and was an intern at the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and at First English Lutheran Church in Sacramento (1986-1987). Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts in history and Bachelor of Arts in German from California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, in 1984, and his Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1988. Johnson was ordained in 1990. Johnson's installation details are yet to be determined."

Bishop-elect Jeff Johnson served as intern with Pastor Ron Zoesch at First English Lutheran Church in Sacramento.

Pastor Carl





**New Bishop
Jeff Johnson**



Confirmation: Celebrated September 24

2020-21 Confirmation Class



2023 Confirmation Class
Congratulations!





FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

August 2023

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$10,827	\$118,688
Compared to Budget	-\$2,511	\$11,987
	-18.8%	11.2%
No. of Contributors	50	55 aver.

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

Other Contributions:

Sunday School – \$2
 ELCA Disaster Relief – \$1,215 (Maui Relief)
 Special Gift -- \$600 (Remove Brush Pile)

Comments:

The August offerings hit the summertime “blues – nearly 20 percent below Budget.

The good news is that the offerings for the year-to-date are about \$12,000 above the Budget, when \$17,800 from the Reserves and Fireworks are included.

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)

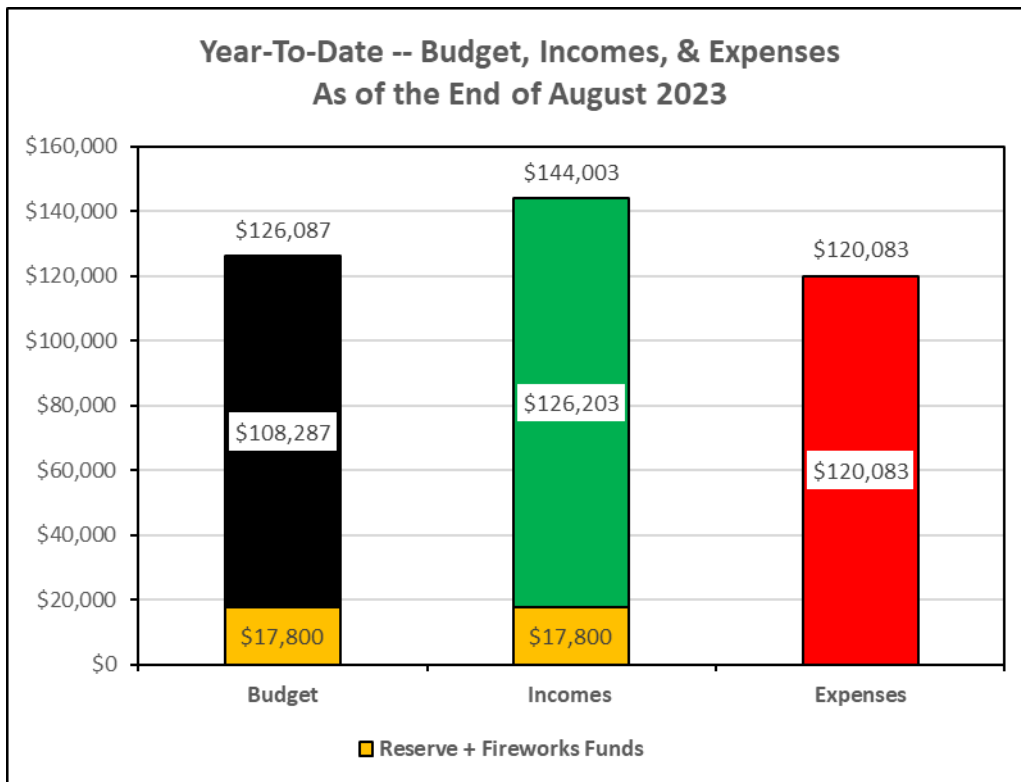
St. Luke's Financial Secretary

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 August 2023. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$126,203) exceed the Expenses (\$120,083) by about \$6,100 which is down slightly from what was reported for July. Expenses for the year remained below Budgeted Funds (\$126,087) when the supplemental Reserve and Fireworks Funds are included.

"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



Sunday Worship Attendance for September

In person attendance

September 3rd - 69
September 10th - 65
September 17th - 56
September 24th - 77

YouTube views

September 3rd - 29
September 10th - 39
September 17th - 21
September 24th - 29



Worship & Music

Congratulations to Jacob Kiser and Andrew Weber who Confirmed their baptism on Sunday, September 24, 2023!! It was also great to have those who were Confirmed individually during the covid pandemic in attendance – Victor Basquez Jr., Claire Kerian, Lucy Orcutt, Conner Ricciardi, Lauren Richey, Noella Sondrini. As Pastor Carl said, “the group picture will be on the wall!!” I’m looking forward to seeing it.

Fall brings a myriad of activities to St. Luke’s. The Choir is back and it is absolutely wonderful to hear this group singing! They are outstanding! It is never too late to join the choir. If you are interested, please see our Organist & Choir Director, Jane Fanucci. Choir practice is every Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

I am pleased to announce that Bill Myers has agreed to be St. Luke’s Head Usher. He had a lot of experience in this position at his former church. Thank you so much, Bill, for accepting this important position. We are very grateful to Larry Dockter who held this position for many years. His growing family business now requires more of his time, and he is happy to pass his folder of ushering duties to Bill. In addition to Bill, we are thankful that Kelly Boyer and Kathy Arndt volunteer their time for ushering duties. Of course, we can always use more ushers. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.

In Christ’s Love,
Shirley Prouty, Chair



Community Concerns Updates

Elk Grove Food Bank Thanksgiving Food Drive

Community Concerns is excited to be partnering with the Elk Grove Food Bank for their Thanksgiving Food drive.

We will begin collecting donations Oct 1st – Nov 15th.

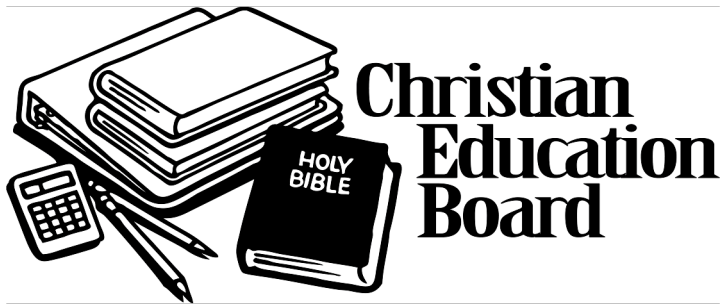
Look for the barrel located in the Narthex.

Backpack and School Supplies

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated and helped stuff backpacks for this year's event! We donated 140 backpacks filled with school supplies to Charles Mack Elementary and Fortune Charter School.

Children's Clothing Closet

We are very happy to announce the **Grand Reopening** of the clothing closet! The hours of operation are Tues-Fri, 9:30am-12:30pm and Mon, 9:30am-2:00pm. Special appointments will be handled through the church office by calling 916-421-5039. Please share this information with all your friends and family!



Sunday School will resume **Sunday, October 1st**, with Peggy Moser running a class for our younger kids, and Kelly Boyer running the class for the older kids. I will check in on the classes, and fill in as needed for scheduling conflicts. We are still hoping that we can get another teacher or 2 to help lighten the load.
--Laura Tice, Christian Education Chair



ALTAR FLOWERS

- Oct. 1st *Jacob & Christiana Wilson - Thanksgiving to God in celebration of our 47th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 2nd.*
- Oct 8th *Sarah & Chet Madison - For Our 56th Wedding Anniversary*
 Kelly Boyer - For Amanda & Shelly's Birthdays
- Oct. 15th *Faith & Tom Harper - For Faith and her sibling's 75th Birthdays*
- Oct. 22nd *Karen Linfor - In celebration of Family Members with October Birthdays*
- Oct. 29th *Gail Weber - In memory of John & Daulton*



Grayson Olmeda	October 02
Ferd Boschee	October 03
Howard Triebwasser	October 04
Gail Weber	October 07
Thelma Williams	October 07
Ron Franklin	October 08
Jeff Kiser	October 08
Ofelia Ojeda	October 08
Vivian Blazic	October 08
Isaac Diaz	October 15
Duane Kiser	October 19
Joan Mooney	October 21
Greg Neidich	October 27
Christina Hisamoto	October 28
Dixon Richey	October 28



OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, October 1st

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Andrew Weber	Reader
Faith Harper	Prayer Leader

Sunday, October 8th

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Gail Weber	Reader
Kirsten Ireton	Prayer Leader

Sunday, October 15th

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Christiana Wilson	Reader
Punky Dias	Prayer Leader

Sunday, October 22nd

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Bob Behr	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader

Sunday, October 29th

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Kelly Boyer	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader

