



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



2023

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia" (2 Corinthians 8:1). That's where Paul, the Apostle's, account of the generous sharing of the Macedonian Christians starts—with the grace of God. Because these folks shared from the abundance of God's love, they joyfully shared in an amazing way. What is often expected is that folks will share from the generosity of their hearts. When folks share from the generosity of God's heart, it is a whole different matter. As Paul said, they *"gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will."* They knew God's gifts of grace are for sharing, not grasping. They trusted God would supply them anew.

The beautiful thing about the Macedonian Christians' amazing sharing was that they *"gave themselves first to the Lord."* They were intent on living under the grace and lordship of God. They realized that everything belonged under the lordship of Jesus Christ. He was the Lord of their lives. He was the Lord of everything they had. They wanted nothing more than the Lord to use them to His glory. That attitude allowed for generous and gracious sharing in so many ways.

I have been blessed to see that kind of generous and gracious sharing among you over many years. Not only are you steady and faithful in financial sharing, but you look for ways to use the time and talents with which God has blessed you to further His work of love in the world. It is obvious you want to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life.

Paul indicates that after giving themselves to the Lord, the Macedonian Christians gave themselves *"by the will of God to us."* They realized that it is God's will that we share of ourselves for the good of others. It is the way we can show our love of God. God doesn't need anything from us. It is all His anyway. But others sure do need our loving sharing. The Macedonian Christians realized this and *"begged Paul earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints."*

When someone is hurting, I don't hear from you, "O that's too bad." Rather you want to know how you can share. You want to know what you can do. You know in your heart that it is God's will for us to share in loving community in this world. Opportunities for sharing are opportunities to show our love of God. I praise God for your blessed desire for loving service.

I know your future with a new pastor will be very bright as God continues to pour treasures of His grace upon you for sharing.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



CALL COMMITTEE

Update - “St Luke’s Call Committee”

The Call Committee met on October 26, 2023 with Pastor Manda, and Pastor Valdez from the Sierra Pacific Synod. We were advised that our TEEM candidate decided not to go forward for the open Pastor position at St Luke at this time. Moving forward, we will be pursuing a $\frac{3}{4}$ pastor for St Luke Church.

There are candidates available.

The Call Committee will be meeting again in November 2023. Please continue to pray for us as we pursue a pastor for St Luke Church.

Chet Madison – Chair

Peggy Moser

Rachel Kiser

Paul Maki

Phil Karlstad

Faith Thomas

Brenda Sulzmann





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 participants 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.

St. Luke's 2023 Fall Festival - Recap

This year's Fall Festival was truly a successful community event not only for our Church but also for those who joined us as a selling vendor or an informational vendor. I am hopeful that those who dropped in found something fun, unique, needed or found something that satisfied a sweet tooth and/or a hungry stomach. I am pleased to share that this year our W-ELCA raised \$2,863.00 and more donations are still coming in. Last year, \$2,075.00 was raised. The best part is next year St. Luke's W-ELCA can do even more for the Charities we support!



Another wonderful thing that I noticed that just played itself out with no effort was the community outreach that occurred through the variety of vendors that joined us. For example, our Festival provided a venue for a couple of vendors from nearby Faith communities who like us were doing their own fund raising to support charities, provide for those who are homeless or provide a backpack full of school supplies for a child whose family cannot afford one etc. There may even be some possible future opportunities for partnering with one of these Faith communities on support efforts where we share a common goal which is to provide for a target group who is in need. We also had a vendor who, out of the blue, offered to help pass out information flyers about the Festival to Spanish speaking neighbors. Finally, we had a couple of vendors (who live in Parkway) who are just starting their own business such as Real Estate, a Travel Agency, selling a book they just recently published. It did not occur to me until now what outreach really is and that it can happen in many different ways. It just needs that starting place and the good it brings begins to spread.



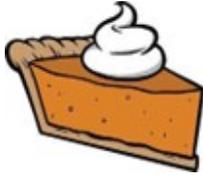
Thank you! so much again to everyone who, helped setup and braved the heat to clean up, donated items and spent the day with us helping at a booth. Especially, thank you all for supporting me and for having patience. You really are why the Festival was a success more than me. It takes a strong and caring Faith community as ours to make great and wonderful things happen.

Blessings to all.

Kathy Arndt
W-ELCA Fall Festival Coordinator



Thank Offering Sunday Pie Sunday, November 19, 2023



The Evangelism Committee will be serving Pie after the Thank Offering Service on **Sunday, November 19**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can bring a pie to share. If you are not able to attend the service on that day but would like to bring a pie that we can freeze, you can drop it off at the Church on *Sunday, November 12th*.

All leftover pies will be donated to the annual Narathon event held at St. Luke's on *November 22nd, 23rd and 24th*.

Any questions, please contact Carole.

Thank you.
Carole Vance



The Evangelism Board would like to thank **Ed, Kirsten and the Kiwanis Club of Laguna** for all the wonderful juice, sodas, muffins, fruit and apple pie. We all enjoyed them for our after service refreshments. Thank you very much.

Carole Vance



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY FOOD DRIVE

We are asking for your help in providing food items for individuals and families that are finding themselves food insecure, especially during Thanksgiving. We will be accepting donations until **November 8th**. Please place all food donations in the barrel located in the Narthex.



Listed below are the items needed this year:

Cranberry Sauce – Canned Gravy – Stuffing Mix – Pasta – Rice
Instant Mashed Potatoes – Canned Corn/Vegetables – Beans - Canned Pasta Sauce –
Canned Yams

We will also be accepting gift cards and monetary donations.

Please place monetary/gift cards in Sunday's offering plate.

All donations will be given to the Elk Grove Food Bank.



CHILDRENS CLOTHING CLOSET

The clothes closet is now open and ready for families.

The days and hours are Mondays from 9:30am – 2:00pm

Tuesdays-Fridays 9:30am – 12:30pm

For special appointment times families can call the church office.

Please spread the word to all your friends, family and neighbors!

Women ^{of the} ELCA

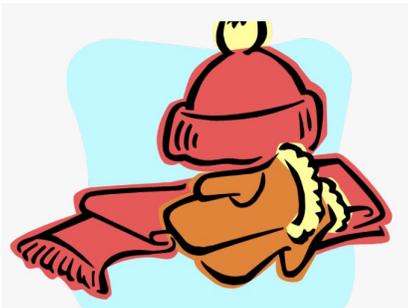
W-ELCA is open to all women attending St Luke's Church.

The mission of **W-ELCA** is to "Mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ"

This month's meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 11th at 11:30 AM**

Lunch will be brown bag and drinks will be provided.

We are supporting the Union Gospel Mission this month.



Please gather adult scarves, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, new and gently used towels and blankets.



WORK IN PROGRESS



"Our Soul Sisters are coordinating a plan to paint the church office before the upcoming holidays. Our target date is *Saturday, November 18*. The office will be prepped *Nov.15 and 16*. We look forward to seeing a freshly painted office area and we appreciate all those who will be involved with this team project."

-Sarah Madison



“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

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING will be the theme for our 100th Anniversary celebration and we are asking congregational members for designs for a logo for the celebration. The logo will be used on announcements, invitations, promotional items, and advertising. The image of the “mustard tree” as described in Matthew 13:31-32 will be used during our year-long celebration and can be incorporated in the logo design if you like. Please submit your design by December 3. The congregation will select the design to be adopted at the annual meeting in December.

Triss Hoppman, 100th Anniversary Chair

Sunday Worship Attendance in October

In person attendance

Oct. 1st	74
Oct. 8th	56
Oct. 15th	61
Oct. 22nd	45
Oct. 29th	64

YouTube views

Oct. 1st	22
Oct. 8th	21
Oct. 15th	21
Oct. 22nd	27
Oct. 29th	28



WORSHIP & MUSIC

November brings important observances and events to St. Luke's Lutheran Church and leads us into December to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Saints Sunday: While officially November 1st, it will be observed on November 5th.

Veterans Day: Always observed on November 11th each year, this year's service on November 12th will honor our Veterans. Our Veterans' Banners will be proudly displayed. The names on the banners are members of St. Luke's and their family members who have served honorably in the armed forces. If you or someone in your family has served in the military and do not already have a Star on the banners, please let me know. The information needed is the name, branch of the military, and dates of service.

Thankoffering Sunday: W-ELCA will host the Thankoffering Sunday on **November 19th**.

Christmas Season: Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd. Advent readers and candle lighters for the Sundays in December are needed, and can be an individual, family, Sunday School class, or group. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex on *November 19th*.

The Christmas Card exchange box will be set up in the Narthex by *December 3rd*. Advent Devotionals will also be available in the Narthex. The target date for decorating the Sanctuary and Christmas tree is **Saturday, December 9th**, either before or after the W-ELCA luncheon. Poinsettias have been ordered and will be available for church members to purchase in honor of or in memory of someone. Order forms will be in the Sunday Bulletins beginning November 19th.

The Choir will perform the annual Cantata on **Sunday, December 17th**. The Choir has been working on this event since September! You don't want to miss it or the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that will be at **7:00 pm, Sunday, December 24th**.

"God's Work, Our Hands!"

Shirley Prouty, (916) 389-0673



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, November 5th

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Faith Harper	Reader
Sarah Madison	Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 12th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Kirsten Ireton	Reader
Phillip Petersen	Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 19th

Thank Offering	Altar Care
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Shirley Prouty	Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 26th

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Hannah Encinas	November 06
Judy Saxby	November 10
Julie Ireton	November 14
Marc Thomas	November 15
Alison Korhonen	November 16
Micki Fenske	November 27
Carl Hoppman	November 27
Mark Encinas	November 29
Dax Moser	November 30



I want to thank all of my St. Luke's family and friends for the cards and phone calls while I was recuperating from my fall.

Blessings to all
Lois Sherrets



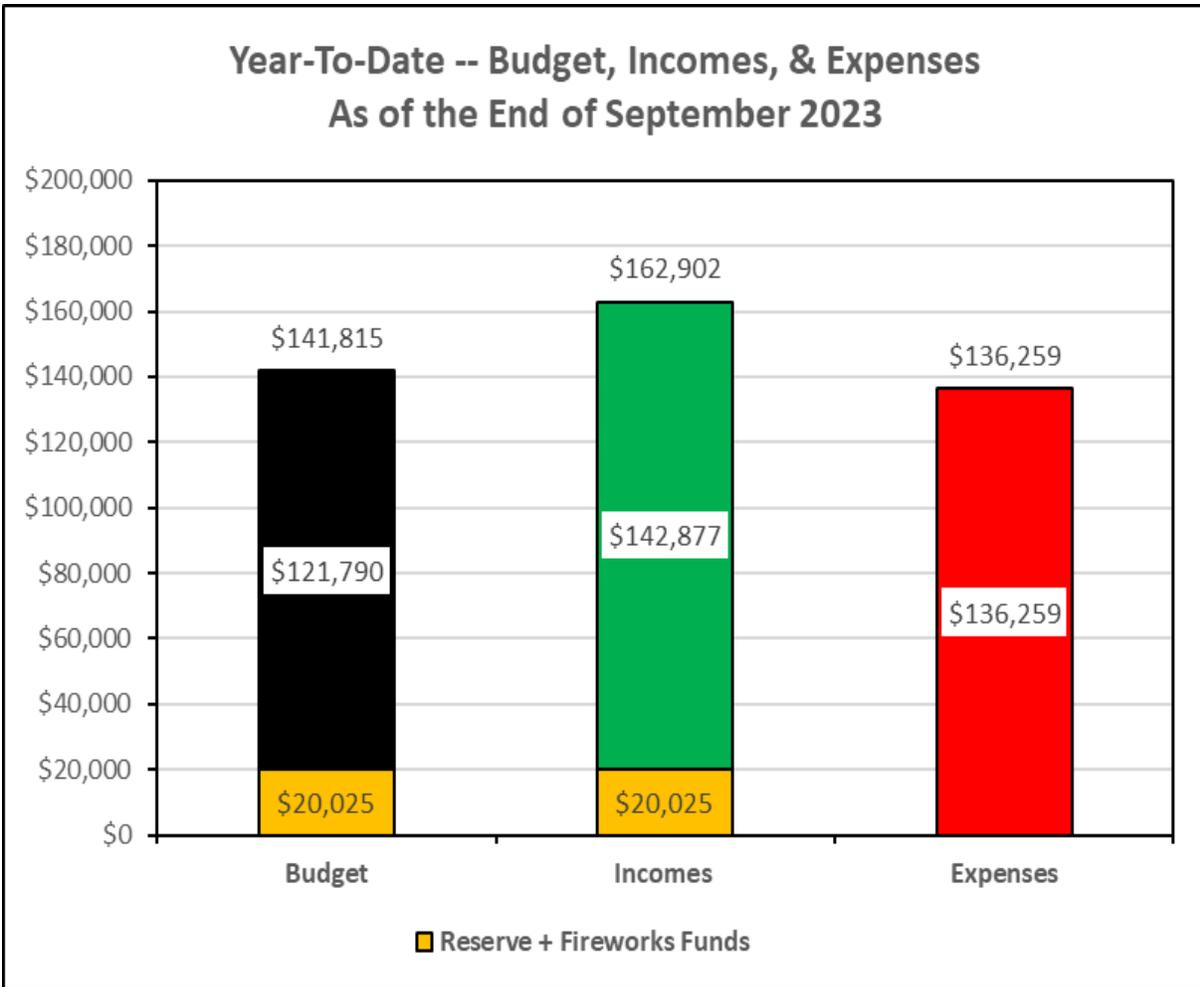
Would you be interested in having a *Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service* on **Wednesday, November 22**? If so, please let me know and I will schedule something for those interested.

Thanks —Pastor Carl



Nov. 5th	<i>Shirley Prouty - In Memory of Cherished Friends and Family & Brenda Sulzmann</i>
Nov. 12th	<i>Pastor Carl & Triss - Thanksgiving for Veterans</i>
Nov. 19th	<i>Shirley Prouty - In Memory of Husband Bob Prouty</i> <i>Kelly Boyer & Lois Sherrets - In Celebration of Jasmines & Ty's Baptism</i>
Nov. 26th	<i>Currently available</i>

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 September 2023. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$142,877) exceed the Expenses (\$136,259) by about \$6,600 which is up slightly from what was reported for August. Expenses for the year remained below Budgeted Funds (\$141,815) 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



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT September 2023

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$15,459	\$134,146
Compared to Budget	\$2,122	\$14,108
	15.9%	11.8%
No. of Contributors	59	56 aver.

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

Comments:

- a. The September offerings were excellent; helped by several quarterly and annual contributions.
- b. It was also wonderful to see the number of contributors significantly increased from last month.
- c. **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](tel:916-714-3626), LRFenske@comcast.net

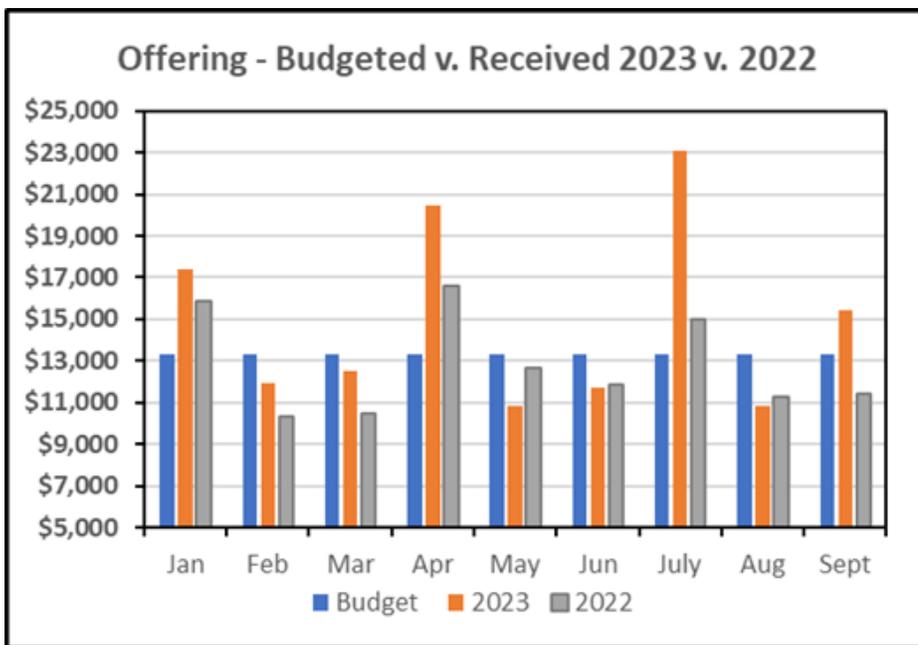
St. Luke's Financial Secretary

OFFERINGS – A THIRD-QUARTER REVIEW

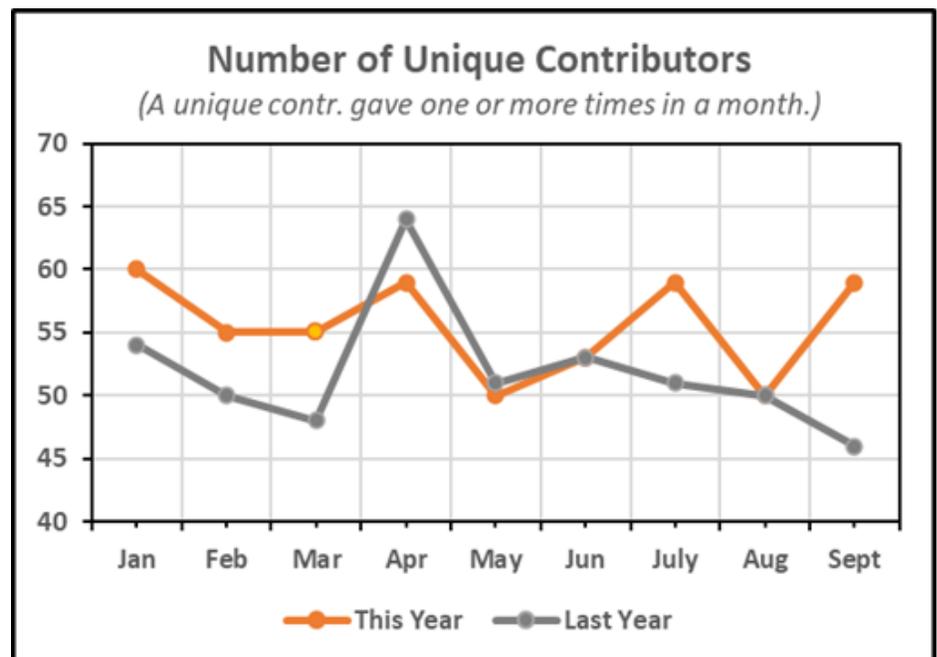
Encouraging. The graph on the left confirms that, in general, the offerings have increased, each month, over last year’s offerings. The Financial Secretary’s data shows the increase from last year is about 16 percent or \$18,700 for the year to date. Progress, but short of the \$24,000 needed annually to balance the Budget, without using Reserve funds.

The graph on the right is also encouraging. Although somewhat mixed, this graph shows that the number of monthly, unique contributors has increased this year. In total, the increase is 33 contributors for the nine months, or about 7.1 percent when compared to 2022. This represents three or four additional contributors, on average, each month. Again, this is progress, but additional growth is required for St. Luke to maintain its sustainability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Finance Board.



*Jack Fenske,
St. Luke Church
Financial Secretary
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LRFenske@comcast.net*





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