



St. Luke's Lutheran
Church

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Pastor Rob Williamson

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News And Views

Pastoral Perspective

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, / and prosper for us the work of our hands— / O prosper the work of our hands!

- Psalm 90:17

Grace and peace to you all! It is strange to think that when you read this, our journey is already a year old – it feels as though I just began, and yet November 1st marks a year of ministry here at St. Luke's Lutheran. I feel truly blessed to be here among you and to walk with you through our lives.

Reflecting on the past year, I believe I have been remiss in explaining myself and my approach to scripture and theology. I consider myself a constructive or systematic theologian. I believe in a theology that remains consistent as much as possible. This is accomplished by reading scripture and attending to the world around us, reconciling the words present in scripture with real, lived experience. This creates what we know as a Living Word seen in the person of Jesus. Jesus's lived experience was often at odds with the religious authority that used doctrine and dogma as a cudgel, attending to the needs of the weakest, the poorest, the sickest, and the most downtrodden. His interpretation of scripture was always to help those in need, never to ignore their needs. (see Matt. 9:10-13, Mark 2:23-27, Mark 3:1-5, John 8:1-11)

As a constructive theologian, I try to follow in this model. I believe that God's intention is for the liberation of humanity from sin, death, and the evils of this world, but if this is the case, then the lived experience of the people in the world – those who are held captive by sin, death, and the evils of this world – has to inform scriptural interpretation. If we believe that the Bible is true and that its message is one of liberation, then interpretation that enforces the evils of this world can't be the proper interpretation. Interpretations that allow people to go hungry or be tortured or be kept in poverty and neglect can't be the proper interpretation.

This also means that interpretation of the scripture, if it is to be a Living Word, has to be reflected in *our* lives. The meaning in it has to apply to what we experience. The application may have changed, because the world has changed, but the intention of God for liberation does not change. It is God's intention that every person be freed from the sinful burdens of this world; since we could not accomplish it ourselves, God accomplished it for us through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. This does not absolve us of any responsibility; it gives us the freedom to try and not be afraid of failure.

I encourage you as we head into our second year of ministry together to remember this: God's Word *must* have something to say about our lives now, or it is not a living word. It must seek the liberation of all God's children from the evils of the world, or it is not a word of liberation.

I also have a number of papers and theological works from my time in seminary using my own words and the words of scholars far wiser than I. If you want to read them to better understand my theological approach and understanding, feel free to ask.

Blessings,
Pastor Rob

Message from Council President

Fall is upon us as we move forward to the fourth (4th) quarter of Year 2025. We have accomplished many events at St Luke's Church, serving the Lord and our Community. One of the important events taking place is our St. Luke Stewardship Program. You all should have received pledge sheets for year 2026 along with the Time and Talent Stewardship form for your review and completion. As I have mentioned throughout the year, your participation/calling to serve at St Luke's Church, in various positions, is a blessing for our community.

Budget 2026: All of the respective Congregational Board Committees have been working on your church budget for several weeks giving input to our Treasurer Chair, Kirsten Iretton, and Finance Chair, Bob Behr. Many hours have been dedicated to developing a good and sound budget for our church for the upcoming year 2026. The Budget will be presented at our annual Congregational Meeting in December 2025.

The City of Sacramento offers to acquire 1.25 acres from St Luke's Church: Many of you know that the Property Board has given lots of thought to the excessive land that has not been utilized for over 50 years. The cost of upkeep and maintenance has been a continuous drain on our resources. The City of Sacramento is willing to give St Luke's Church fair market value for the 1.25 acres. We secured our personal appraisal to make certain we were getting fair market value for the 1.25-acre lot. Our Property Board met with City of Sacramento Department of Utilities Engineers on October 23, 2025, to discuss details. The Property Board has decided to move forward with the City's offer. A special meeting will be held with Church Council ASAP for their approval of this offer. A special Congregational Meeting will be held after Sunday service on November 9, 2025, for the congregation's approval of the sale of the 1.25-acre lot.

Again, I want to thank all the hard-working committees and others that help keep St Luke's Church doing God's work. NO organization can exist without the true dedication and commitment of team members.

May you and your families have an enjoyable and safe Fall Season.

Warm Blessings!!!

Chet Madison



BLESSED BAGS DELIVERED TO ELK GROVE'S YEAR-ROUND SHELTER

On Thursday, October 16th, the Community Concerns Board and Pastor Rob visited the Gathering Inn's Elk Grove Year-Round Shelter for the un-housed. The group delivered 46 of the Blessed Bags filled with items our Congregation collected over this past summer as well as some miscellaneous donated drinks and hygiene items. Christian, who is the Community Engagement Coordinator, graciously offered his time to show the group the facility (he joined our Service and gave a Temple Talk on Sunday, August 10th). He spent a great deal of time discussing more about all the services the Shelter provides for un-housed individuals in the Elk Grove area. He also discussed more about the City of Elk Grove's future vision and commitment to find and open a permanent location for a year-round Shelter by 2028. Keep a look out for a future opportunity to tour the current facility as well as preparing and serving meals.





The Community Concerns Board collection of the Thanksgiving 'Fix-Ins' for the Elk Grove Food Bank , ends on Sunday, November 9. Drop off your donations in the bin located under the Shepard Jesus located at the back of the Sanctuary. If you are not able to bring your donation(s) to the Church, please contact the Office (916-421-5039) to arrange for a pickup from your home.

If you have any questions or need information about the collection drive, you can ask any member on the Community Concerns Board.

Thank you!

Community Concerns Board

Kaiser Permanente Fall Prevention Class, part of St. Lukes 100th Anniversary Blessed to be a Blessing project.

Completed their 8 week class sessions at the end of October.





October 4th, 2025

Thank You, Thank You

The W-ELCA Fall Festival was once again a success this year, accompanied by favorable weather conditions that appeared to be appreciated by all attendees.

We sincerely thank everyone who played a part in making the 2025 W-ELCA Fall Festival a success. Organizers and supporters of Friday's White Elephant Donation Giveaway deserve recognition, as do those who helped with Saturday morning's festivities. A special thanks goes to Carol Carney for her unwavering dedication to the White Elephant event, and to Dorothy Haney, Victor Sulli, and JoAnn Sulli for their work at the Donation Tables. Connie Reule and Carolyn Andrews ran the Country Store smoothly, together with their team who handled the baked goods sales. The Boutique Area benefited from the hard work of Karen Kiser and Brenda Sulzmann, assisted by Bruce Kiser, Jim Sulzmann, and Faith Thomas. Food Court Chair Triss Hoppman, plus Holly Hoppman, Jeff Kiser, Jacob Kiser, and Carl Hoppmann, kept everything running seamlessly. Jacob Wilson provided music throughout the day to enhance the atmosphere. The Clothes Closet offered essential clothing to those in need from the inner courtyard. This year's festival also featured a Kid's Corner coordinated by Pastor Rob Williamson, where children enjoyed engaging games. Lastly, our gratitude extends to the six Kiwiana Key Club members for their vital help with setting up and taking down tables, chairs, and tents.

*Yours in Christ,
Peggy Moser & Marlene Kiser
WELCA Fall Festival Co-Chairs*

W-ELCA Fall Festival 2025 Pictures





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"

W-ELCA will be meeting ***Saturday November 8 at 11:30am***. It will be a brown bag luncheon. The speaker for the meeting will be from the Mustard Seed School. Gathering is for the Kawanis Family Home. A wish list of needed donation items can be found on their website kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Thank you,
Punky Dias , *W-ELCA Chair*



Sunday, November 23

Our annual WELCA Thankoffering service will be held Sunday, November 23 at 10:30 a.m. We are pleased this year to welcome Regina Banks from the Synod office as our guest preacher. This years' service was created by the students and staff of the Office of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry at Wartburg College for Women of the ELCA. The theme is "Strength, Soul, and Spark: Celebrating the Gifts of Women."

Women are needed to lead various parts of the service. This includes readers, communion assistants, ushers and other roles. If you would like to help in leading this special service, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex.

Pie will be served after the Thank Offering Service. If you would like to bring a pie to share, please sign-up in the narthex. Thank you.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, November 2

Peggy Moser

Altar Care

Christiana Wilson

Reader

Peggy Moser

Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 9

Shirley Prouty

Altar Care

Shirley Prouty

Reader

Phil Karlstad

Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 16

Kelly Boyer

Altar Care

Sarah Madison

Reader

Howard Triebwasser

Prayer Leader

Sunday, November 23

Thank Offering Service

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of advent

Faith Thomas

Altar Care

Bob Behr

Reader

Kirsten Ireton

Prayer Leader

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Christmas Gift Drive
November 9 – December 7
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families has again been selected as the recipient of our annual children's Christmas gift drive. The organization has been serving children in the Capitol area for almost 125 years. They serve approximately 6,700 children and families in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, Napa, and San Joaquin counties annually.

Their services include family advocacy and support; behavioral and mental health services; substance use prevention and treatment; juvenile justice intervention; mentoring; foster care; adoption services and pre- and post-adoption services.

To help the families they serve, the organization offers a "gift shop" to the caregivers where they can select appropriate and meaningful gifts for the children in their care. Our contributions help stock the gift shop. If you would like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gifts, and place them under the tree at the back of the sanctuary between November 9 and December 7.

A list of suggested gifts is available in the narthex. Most of the children served are age 10 and up.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
September 2025

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$13,260	\$138,418
Compared to Budget	-\$2,925	-\$7,247
	-18.1%	-5.0%
No. of Contributors	51	54 avg.

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

Other Contributions:

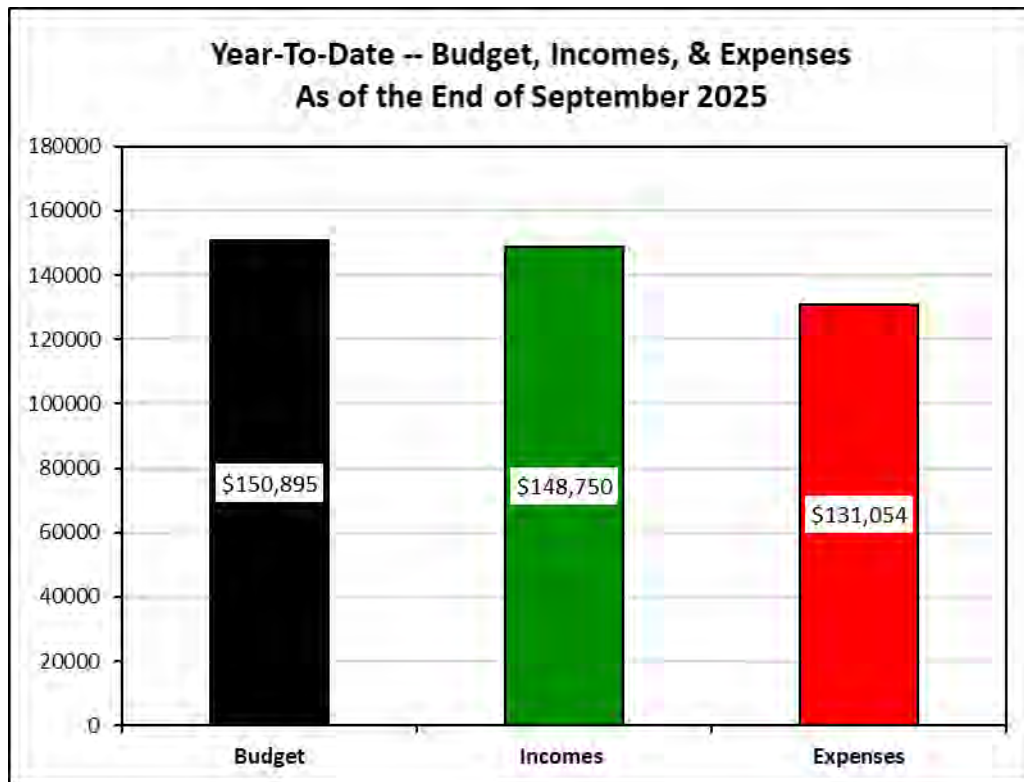
a. None.

Comments:

- a. The September offerings for four Sundays remained below budget for the month.
- b. As of the end of September the year-to-date offerings are about 5.0 percent **below** the adopted Budget.

*Bob Behr 916-730-0768, bkbahr@comcast.net
Chair, St. Luke's Financial Board*

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 September 2025. As shown, through September, the Incomes (\$148,750) continue to exceed the Expenses (\$131,054) by about \$17,700. The year-to-date Expenses continue to be below the Budget (\$150,895) by approximately \$19,800. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings help us to continue to meet our commitments through 2025.

FINANCE BOARD



Happy Birthday Ferd!

Ferd Boschee celebrating his 99th Birthday in October.





Let's all come together to refresh, beautify and take care of our church campus.

An all members work day is scheduled for Saturday,

November 8th at 9:00am

Contact Kelly Boyer with any questions

Hannah Encinas	November 06
Chona Sisson	November 09
Jim Sulzmann	November 09
Judy Saxby	November 10
Julie Ireton	November 14
Alison Korhonen	November 16
Rosie Brown	November 18
Patty Terry	November 23
Christiana Wilson	November 24
Micki Fenske	November 27
Carl Hoppman	November 27
Margot Zemke	November 27
Mark Encinas	November 29
Dax Moser	November 30



November 2: Evangelism - New Member Cake

November 9: Jacob and Christiana Wilson

November 16: Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett

November 23: Pie Social for Thanksgiving

November 30: Justin & Laura Tice



Nov. 2 Available

Nov. 9 Available

Nov. 16 Available

Nov. 23 Triss Hoppman in Celebration of Birthdays for Micki Fenske & Pastor Carl

Nov. 30 Available

Seven St Luke's ladies enjoyed an amazing weekend at the WELCA Sierra Pacific Synod 16th Biennial convention. It was held at Christ the King passionate center in Citrus Heights this year. We shared wonderful Bible studies, communion together, and sermon lead by the first female Bishop in El Salvador and our own Synod Bishop Jeff Johnson, a very meaningful Taize Service and unbelievable fellowship.



Flash Back to the Past and in Memory of:

Jerry Linfor and Jack Fenske were working at the church, not sure when, but they were very good friends, and they are both missed.

***Pastor Carl had recently shared this picture with Karen Linfor.*



To the congregation:

I am asking that you think back to Pastor Rob's past sermon regarding "Stewardship." Please search your heart about adding your name to the list of folks who assist in the worship service as Readers and Prayer Leaders.

If you have an interest in participating, please reply

to me, or to the church office.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Remember, "You Can't Beat God Giving"!!

In Him,

Karen Linfor



THERE IS
Always
SOMETHING TO BE
Thankful
FOR

The text is arranged in a circular pattern. The words "Always" and "Thankful" are written in a large, elegant black script font. The words "THERE IS", "SOMETHING", "TO BE", and "FOR" are written in a smaller, red, all-caps sans-serif font. The entire phrase is surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, some of which are integrated into the lettering.