



2024

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. – Isaiah 9:2

Grace and peace to you all! I am thrilled to be writing this to you. We have an exciting journey ahead of us, and I look forward to getting to know you all.

As we begin this December, we move into my favorite season of the church year: Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation, of longing and expectation. We light the candles in the Advent wreath and count down the days until Christmas, preparing ourselves for the joyous celebrations, the good cheer, the food and music and community this season presents.

This time also holds a great deal of anticipation for us as we begin our ministry together. And yes, it is together. I may be the called pastor, but the ministry of the church is done by all its members. There is a place for each of us to serve; my responsibility is to help you find where your place is. It's one I am eager to undertake, but to do that I need to know who you are.

Beginning in January – once the Christmas season is finished, because who has time in December for anything else? – I would like to start meeting with each of you. I want to know what you love about St. Luke's, what you miss, what you hope for the future. I want to know what you love about this marvelous creation in which we take part. What brings you joy? What makes you feel accomplished?

We all have gifts, you see, but until I know what your gifts are, I can't help you find new ways those gifts fit in here. I've already started to get to know some of you, and the pieces are starting to come together, but there is life and energy we have in reserve. There is potential hidden below the surface; we simply need to discover how to bring it out.

For my part, most of you have discovered that I love to sing; what you might not know is that I am a lover of our liturgy, and this has led me to learn about it and how it can be used. In January, I will use my gifts to offer a four-week discussion of the liturgy: its purpose, its components, how it has evolved and how it continues to evolve today. Meetings times for these discussions will be announced when we have them on the calendar. I hope to see you there as we remind ourselves that there is purpose to everything we say on Sunday mornings.

For now, I invite you to live into the anticipation of the Advent season. Enjoy the thrill of knowing what is coming. Allow it to propel you forward into the mysterious future God has planned for us!

Blessings,
Pastor Rob



Message from Council President

As we approach the year end of 2024, there are many events that will take place at St Luke Church. One important event I want to emphasize, is our Congregation Year End Meeting December 8, 2024, after Sunday service. Our budget projection for 2025 will be presented and voted on at this meeting. Also, a current list of Board Chairs and Terms & Positions will be available. I ask current and able members that have not committed themselves to serve their church on committees and board chairs, to really give some thought and consideration on how you can serve and support your church. We have gone a YEAR without a Finance Chair...Can we please have someone step up and serve in this position?

Before our Congregational meeting begins, we will enjoy a wonderful Potluck luncheon and time to fellowship together, followed by a very productive meeting.

I want to thank all the gracious wonderful hard-working members at St Luke Lutheran Church. Specifically, the Call Committee for their patience and guidance to help bring us Pastor Rob. Many thanks to the dedicated Finance Committee who ensures that our church is fiscal solvent, to the Property Committee that maintains our church campus within budget, to the Community Concerns, Evangelism, Worship & Music, Education, and WELCA Committees for their tireless efforts serving our community and church.

Wishing you and your families a Blessed and Safe Holiday Season and healthy New Year in 2025.

Peace be with you!
Chet Madison,
Council President



Christmas Gift Drive Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families (SSYAF) has been selected as the recipient of our annual Christmas gift drive this year. SSYAF's mission is transforming lives by nurturing permanent connections and empowering families to solve challenges together, so every young person can thrive. SSYAF has been serving youth and families in our community for over 123 years and annually serves approximately 6,000 children and families in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, Napa, Solano, and San Joaquin counties.

SSYAF provides a variety of community-based trauma informed care and services to youth and families to overcome challenges together and connects youth in care to permanent loving families. Comprehensive support and services are extended to siblings and caregivers of youth in care. SSYAF's services include family advocacy and peer 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.

During the holiday season SSYAF offers a Holiday Store to the families its serves so that caregivers can "shop" at no cost to them and select appropriate and meaningful gifts for the children in their care. Our contributions will help stock the Holiday Store and provide special moments of holiday connection for these families. If you would like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gifts, and place them under the tree at the back of the sanctuary by December 8.

Please see the suggestions below:

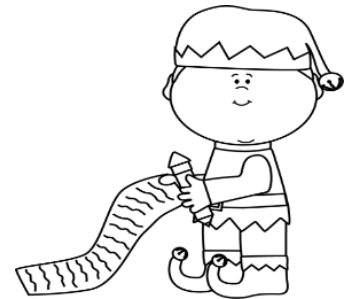
Holiday Gift List Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

7 - 9 Years: Stuffed Toys, Barbies, Action Figures, Toy Cars, Educational Games, Puzzles, Board Games, Movie Tickets, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Pop Its, Surprise Toys, Lego Sets

10 - 12 Years: Wireless Earphones, Gift Cards, Roblox, Minecraft Games, Bath Bombs, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Roller Skates, Tablet, Slime Kits, Lego Sets, Gingerbread House Kits, Cozy Blankets, Throws

13 - 15 Years: Press on Nails, Nail Polish, Lotion and Body Wash Sets, Fragrance Sets, Scented Candles, Journal Sets, Books, Wireless Ear Buds, Video Games, Fortnite/Roblox Gift Cards, Scooters, Bikes, Roller Skates, Helmets, Skateboards, Tablets, Science Kits, Anime Posters, Clothing, Pajamas.

16 Years and up: Wireless Ear Buds, Bath and Body Fragrance Sets, Bath and Body Scented Candles, Art Sets, Board Games, Gift Cards, Video Games, Xbox/Playstation/Steam Gift Cards, Gaming Accessories (Headsets/Controllers/Steering Wheels), Smart Watches, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Helmets, Nail Sets (Press on Nails and Polish), Graphic Tees, Hoodies, Sweatshirts (Zumiez/Journeys/Pacsun), Clothing, Pajamas.



Congregational Meeting and Potluck December 8th



The Evangelism Board is coordinating the Congregational Potluck on December 8, 2024 and the W-ELCA ladies are decorating. Part of our congregational meeting is sharing with each other and enjoying a delicious potluck. Please plan to come! We will also be approving our 2025 church budget.

Thank You!

A graphic consisting of several overlapping, horizontal brushstrokes in various colors: blue, purple, pink, and yellow. The strokes are thick and textured, giving it a hand-painted appearance.

Thank you for all your kind words, prayers and concerns. My sister, Marilyn Winterstein, went to Heaven on November 15th.

Blessings to all, Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer

100th Anniversary

We need your help! The 100th Anniversary Committee has several pictures that need to be identified for our 100th anniversary presentation. We are asking all members to stay awhile after the annual meeting and potluck on December 8 to help us review and categorize the pictures. We especially need those who remember the people and events from the Alhambra property. Please plan to attend and join in the walk down memory lane. We will supply pencils and Post-it notes for labelling the pictures.



WORSHIP & MUSIC BOARD

Christmas Season – the wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, begins December 1st which is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent devotionals are available on the tables in the back of the Sanctuary. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Advent readers and candle lighters for the Sundays in December, and also for the Christmas Eve service which will be held at 7:00 pm. Please consider participating!

The Christmas card exchange box is set up in the Narthex. Please use this box to send Christmas cards to fellow church members, rather than mailing them. It is a great way to save on postage.

Poinsettias have been ordered and will be displayed in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia in memory of, or honor of someone, they will be available for purchase for \$15.00 each. Orders are due by **Sunday, December 15th** and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th.

Please remember that our **Choir's annual Cantata** will be ***Sunday, December 15th***. Our Choir Director and Organist, Jane Fanucci, and the Choir have been working on this musical presentation since September. You already know how wonderful our Choir is! You don't want to miss it! And after, you are invited to stay for the Sacramento Youth Band's concert and refreshments.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held ***Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 pm.*** Please join us as we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

There are many activities that are accomplished both "behind the scenes" and during the service each week to ensure that all goes smoothly. You are invited to serve in one or more of the many positions: Communion Servers, Readers & Prayer Leaders, Acolytes, and assistance with Ushering are just a few. Please consider signing up to help. "God's Work, Our Hands."

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Andrews, Chair



Please join us for a 9 Week Bible Study on 1 & 2 Peter and Jude starting January 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM, on Zoom.

Dates: Starts on January 14, 2025 – March 11, 2025.

Topic: The books 1 & 2 Peter and Jude

Study Guide: N.T. Wright "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" on "1&2 Peter and Jude (Guides can be found on Amazon, Christianbook.com, & thrift-books.com) Study guides are participates 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), the Book of Acts, Romans, and 1 & 2 Corinthians. We are now going to start a new Bible Study on the books of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude. The writers of these letters are most likely the Apostle Peter (1&2 Peter) and the brother of Jesus (Jude).

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.



Calendars, Christmas Cards & Cookbooks will be available for sale before and after church (in Schultz hall) to help raise funds for St. Luke's 100th Anniversary celebration. Additionally, the beautiful table decorations will be available for sale.

***Thanks for your support,
Karen Kiser and Brenda Sulzmann***

Carnitas Lunch

On Sunday, March 2nd, following worship, the 100th Anniversary Committee will be having a Carnitas Lunch and raffle. Tickets are \$15.00 and include a delicious Carnitas Dinner. Special Mexican pastries will be available for sale as well. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

Refreshments

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for Refreshment Servers in 2025. If you can buy cookies, you can serve them too! Please sign up for a Sunday or two.

Thank you, Evangelism Committee



W-ELCA will be having their Annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 15th at 11:30AM in the Schultz Hall. The theme of the day is “Picnic in December” and a picnic luncheon including will be provided by W-ELCA and will include Fried Chicken, Coleslaw, Macaroni Salad, Small Ear-of-Corn, Biscuits, and Dessert.

If you are planning to attend, please be sure to sign up on the W-ELCA Christmas Luncheon Sign Up Sheet in the church narthex so we know how many of you will be there.

Our luncheon program will include a Devotional, short W-ELCA meeting, singing Christmas songs and a “gift exchange game” for those who would like to participate. (If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift under \$10.00 so you can join the fun).

We will be collecting gift cards for \$5.00 from stores like Dollar Tree, Fast Food or like stores to give to “City of Refuge Sacramento” for our December W-ELCA Mission. If you have any questions about this organization, please reach out to any of the women of W-ELCA or Kelly Boyer who has worked with this organization.

We would love to see all of you come and celebrate with us that “Jesus is the reason for the Season”.

Connie Reule & Marlene Kiser
Co-chair of the Annual W-ELCA Christmas Party



There will be no Sunday school on December 15th due to the Christmas Cantata.

Laura Tice



In September we began our “Friends & Family Sunday” on the first Sunday of each month. Let’s continue to invite and welcome friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to visit St. Luke Lutheran Church throughout the months, especially on our first Sundays of each month. We look forward to meeting new faces and renewing past friendships.

~Sarah Madison

COMMUNITY CONCERNS WINTER SOCK COLLECTION

Coming in January 2025

During the month of January 2025, our Community Concerns Board will again be collecting new adult warm winter socks for our neighbors who are living on wet and cold streets. Consider adding them to your pre-Christmas and post-Christmas shopping list. We will have a collection bin in the Narthex starting Sunday, January 5th. Thank you!



COMMUNITY CONCERNS BOARD CHARITY SUPPORT IN 2024

Each year, a percentage of the proceeds from our Church fund raising events such as the annual Fireworks booth is given to the Community Concerns special Benevolence Fund. All proceeds collected and placed into this fund are to be donated to support local charities. This year, the Board selected 7 charity recipients and donated \$300 to each for a total of \$2,100.00.

South Sacramento Hart

Family Promise

Society for the Blind

The Gathering Inn

Loaves and Fishes

Valley High Family Resource Center

Sacramento Youth Band

Attached is a 'Thank you' letter to our congregation from one of the above recipients. It is a representation of how much and where the support of our congregation is needed and is, in turn, so very much appreciated.

Kathleen Arndt

Community Concerns Chair





September 11, 2024

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7595 Center Pkwy
Sacramento, CA 95823-3755

Dear St. Luke's Lutheran Church,

We received your recent gift of \$300.00 received on 8/30/2024 and once again we are very grateful for your contribution. Your continued generosity helps us provide essential resources to those in need—such as mental health services, case management, and rehabilitation services—that have the power to change and empower lives.



Thanks to donors like you, we're able to provide a unique program that emphasizes trust and connection for those who have experienced homelessness. Our team members work alongside guests, helping them overcome barriers and realize their potential for a more stable future. Your donation not only strengthens the lives of our guests but also benefits the entire community.

As a four-star rated organization with Charity Navigator, you can be sure that your donation is being carefully stewarded. In fact, .90 cents of every dollar goes directly to programs, with only .10 cents going towards administrative costs.

Thank you for supporting our mission and enabling The Gathering Inn to continue inspiring hope and walking alongside guests on their journey towards sustainable housing.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Diederich".

Keith Diederich
President and Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thank you so much!!!" with three exclamation points.

(916) 791-9355 | 4020 Sierra College Blvd. Suite 100 | www.thegatheringinn.com
Rocklin, CA 95677



Alanna Olmeda	December 01
Carole Vance	December 03
Faith Harper	December 03
Kim Fenske	December 04
Benjamin Iniguez	December 05
Jared Kiser	December 05
Lauren Richey	December 09
Betty Englund	December 14
Chet Madison	December 16
Sylvia Kohler	December 21
Triss Hoppman	December 25
Robert Harrison	December 26
Deanna Dockter	December 27
Adalyn Kiser	December 31



- Dec. 1st *Rosie Brown—In honor of her granddaughter Sage's birthday*
- Dec. 8th *Currently available*
- Dec. 15th *Currently available*
- Dec. 22nd *Currently available*
- Dec. 29th *Lila & Phil Karlstad—In loving memory of our parents*

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, December 8th

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Laura Tice	Announcements
Sarak Madison	Reader
Laura Tice	Prayer Leader

Sunday, December 15th

Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Peggy Moser	Announcements
Phil Petersen	Reader
Lydia Toloy	Prayer Leader



Sunday, December 22nd

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Chet Madison	Announcements
Shirley Prouty	Reader
Howard Triebwasser	Prayer Leader

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
--------------	------------

Sunday, December 29th

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Carolyn Andrews	Announcements
Faith Thomas	Reader
Andrew Weber	Prayer Leader





OFFERINGS – OCTOBER 2024

General Fund (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$14,492	\$158,152
Compared to Budget	-\$808	\$5,152
	-5.3%	3.4%
No. of Contributors	55	57 aver.

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

Other Contributions:

100th Anniversary ... \$536 (cookbooks, calendars, etc.)

Comments:

October was the second consecutive month, since August, that the monthly offerings fell short of the Budget.

The good news is that year-to-date offerings remain above the Budget.

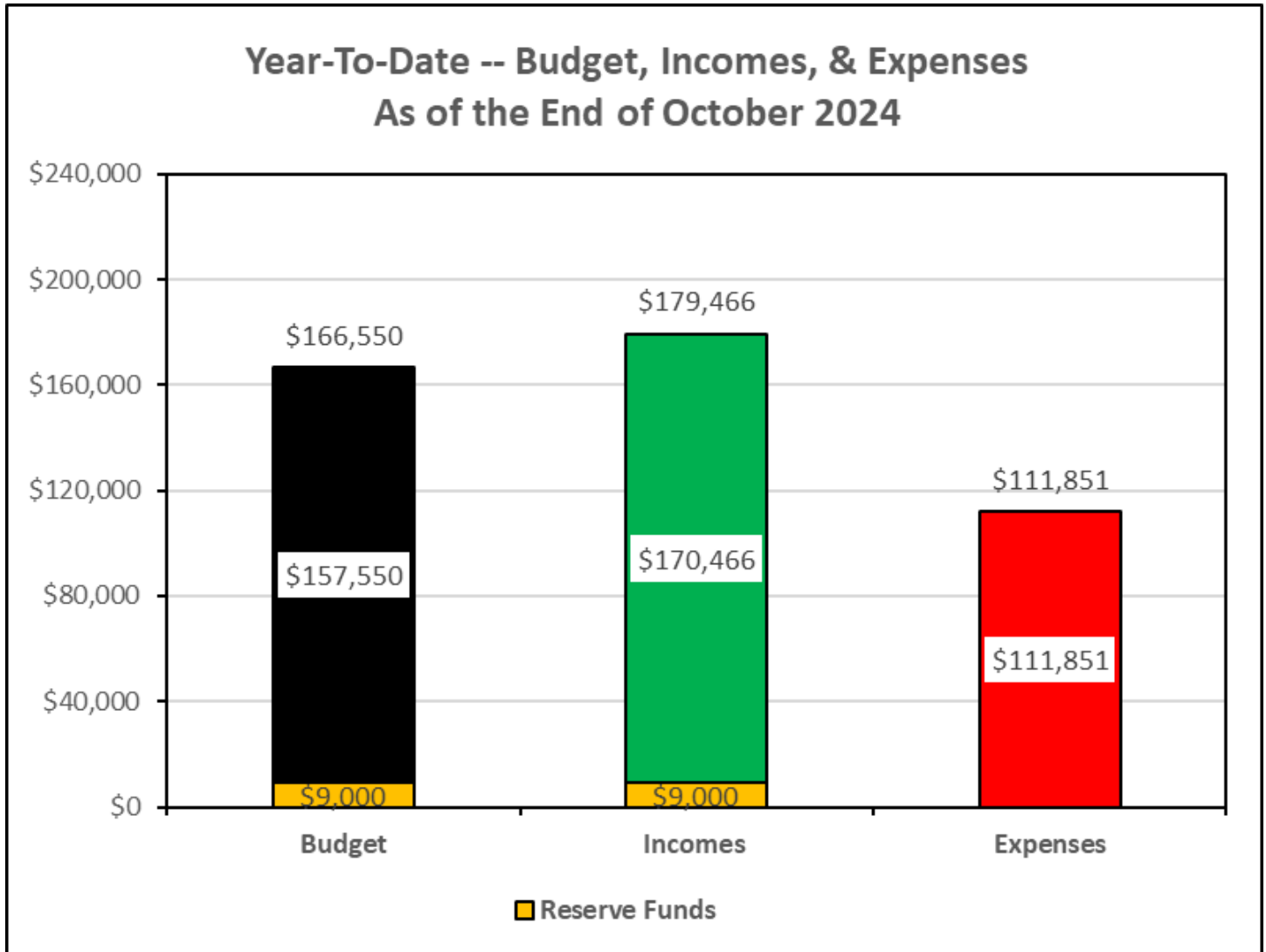
If you need envelopes, drop a note in the offering or contact me.

Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, LRFenske@comcast.net

St. Luke's Financial Secretary



FINANCES TO DATE



The graph above compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of October 2024. As shown, the current Incomes exceed the Budget by about \$12,900. The Incomes without the Reserve supplement (\$170,466) exceed the Expenses (\$111,851) by about \$58,600. This is primarily due to not having the expenses of a pastor over the last few months. We are currently not dependent on the Reserve supplement to meet expenses, which is our goal.

“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

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

W-ELCA CHRISTMAS
GATHERING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
AT 11:30AM



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15TH
10:30AM



Christmas Eve

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 24TH
7:00PM