



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



2024

News And Views

2023 Annual Report Edition

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times."—Charles Dickens

2023 started very well with St. Luke's welcoming Pastor Brian and looking forward to strong growth in mission and ministry. Sadly, Pastor Brian needed to resign his call in May because of personal issues. Interim Bishop Claire contacted me and asked if I would consider filling in for a time at St. Luke's. As most of you know, I retired at the end of 2020 from serving as pastor of St. Luke's for 27 years. It is rare for a retired minister to be asked to fill in at the congregation he or she had previously served. I told Bishop Claire I would do whatever she felt would be best for St. Luke's. So, she and the St. Luke's Church Council contracted with me to serve as $\frac{3}{4}$ time Term Pastor of St. Luke's on a month-to-month basis, starting July 1. My term here will end when a new Pastor is called or when the Bishop, the Church Council, or I feel it is best to end the term.

It is a joy to have the opportunity to serve again with St. Luke's for a time. I retired during the pandemic. Because of pandemic restrictions I just had to leave without really getting to say goodbye. These months together are a great blessing. During my time here I have worked on the following goals and activities:

- Preached the Word of God and presided at Worship each Sunday and at Special Services.
- Provided pastoral care through many in-person and phone conversations. Sent out several requests for prayer to the St. Luke's Email Group. Made myself available every Sunday in the prayer alcove 15 minutes before worship for folks to pray with me regarding concerns.
- Along with members of the Evangelism Board, took Communion to homebound.
- Officiated at several funerals and baptisms.
- **Put together and distributed a revised St. Luke's Members and Friends roster. That was a vital and major goal of my term here.**
- Met regularly and assisted in the ministry of the Worship and Music Board, Evangelism Board, Community Concerns Board, Executive Committee, and Church Council.
- **Established and maintained regular office hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with the church secretary keeping office hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is now a stable and reliable presence in the church office Monday - Friday for congregational members and others.**
- Led Confirmation/Catechumenate class with a potluck supper on seven Wednesday evenings in the summer. The average attendance of the class was 22.
- Reached out to 2020-21 Confirmands and their families to connect with them and invite them to the Confirmation service on September 24 when their Confirmations would be recognized and celebrated. Their Confirmations had to be with family only due to the pandemic.

- **Celebrated with the Confirmation Class of 2020-21 and confirmed Jacob Kiser and Andy Weber at worship on Sept. 24. That was a major goal of my term here.**
- **Completed a goal to encourage and assist the very dedicated live stream volunteers, Marlene Kiser and her family, in upgrading the live stream equipment and software. Encouraged Jack Fenske and Bill Myers in mounting and providing connections for the new live stream camera.**
- Worked to intentionally include online worshipers in the Sunday Worship service rather than considering them simply as folks viewing the service.
- Started listing in-person worship attendance and online views in the News & Views.
- Along with Laura and Justin Tice, Peggy Moser and Marlene Kiser, represented St. Luke's at the Synod Assembly on September 15-17 in Burlingame. Took part in the election of a new Bishop for our Synod, Bishop Jeff Johnson.
- Reinstated the Flower Chart for providing flowers for worship.
- **Encouraged and helped with the completion of the Soul Sisters project of painting and redecorating the church office. Special thanks to Justin Tice who did a fabulous job with the painting and Sarah Madison who coordinated the project wonderfully! That was a major goal of my term here as the church office had become very unattractive and uninviting during the pandemic.**
- At the request of the Executive Committee, revised the Duty Statement for the Church Office Secretary and drafted a Duty Statement for a Church Office Secretary Back Up.
- Completed a Term Pastor year-end review of the Church Office Secretary at the request of the Executive Committee.
- **Completed a goal to personally contact and encourage members and friends who hadn't been a part of the life of the congregation for a time to take part in holiday worship and activities. Sent 32 personal notes as well as made several phone calls and sent several emails to accomplish this task.**

It has been a privilege to serve as your Term Pastor these last several months. I have done my best to help St. Luke's prepare for a new pastor who will lead you forward in mission and ministry. I especially want to thank Chet Madison, our Congregational President, for his caring ministry with Pastor Brian and for his tireless efforts to move the congregation forward toward calling a new pastor.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Term Pastor Carl Hoppman

Annual Message from Council President Chet Madison

As I look back at my first major task at St Luke Church, it was becoming Chairperson for our Call Committee in 2022 for a new pastor. Serving with a great Call Committee throughout 2022 and selecting Pastor Brian as our new Pastor was an honor. I had the privilege of being nominated as your Congregational President for 2023.

I felt very optimistic for 2023 with Pastor Brian as our pastor. Unfortunately, as you all know, Pastor Brian had to resign for personal issues. As a result, I was asked by congregation members to resume as Chairperson for the Call Committee. Our priority is to find a new pastor for St Luke Church ASAP. I will continue to serve as your Congregational President as well.

It has been an honor to work with all the church Council Members and Executive Board throughout 2023. I want to especially thank Pastor Carl for coming out of retirement to help guide St Luke Church to a prosperous 2023 year. Again, we want to find a new pastor so Pastor Carl can return to retirement status and enjoy life.

I hope you all will read the various committees' annual reports for 2023 and appreciate their hard work in keeping St. Luke Lutheran Church as one of the premier Lutheran Congregations.

May Peace be with you ALL!
Chet Madison,
Congregational President

2024 Church Council Chair Committee Members

NAME	POSTION
Chet Madison	President
Peggy Moser	Vice President
Kirsten Ireton	Treasurer
Carl Hoppman	Term Pastor
Marlene Kiser	Secretary
Cathy Davis	Evangelism
Carolyn Andrews	Worship & Music
Laura Tice	Education
Kathleen Arndt	Community Concerns
Faith Thomas	Youth Board
Kelly Boyer	Property Board
Punky Dias	W-ELCA President
<i>Vacant</i>	Finance Board
Connie Reule	Special Fund Recorder
Jack Fenske	Financial Secretary



***Note from the Council President:**
All Chair Committee positions are filled with the exception of the Finance Position. If anyone is interested, Please contact Council President, Chet Madison.



W-ELCA

Our W-ELCA February Meeting will be on February 10,2024 at 11:30am in the Schultz Hall. As we celebrate the month of February with Valentine’s Day and Women’s Heart Month, W-ELCA will be celebrating these events by requesting those attending the meeting to wear red if they would like to and also bring food the color red for the Potluck Lunch. Last year we had quite a variety of red food at our Potluck, let’s see if we can duplicate that event.

February’s Mission Project is for the Sacramento SPCA, with a Gathering of Towels, Pet Toys, and Food.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Marlene Kiser

W-ELCA donations from their Benevolent Fund for 2024

2024	Warm Line Family Resource Center	\$400.00
2024	ELCA Good Gifts	\$400.00
2024	Mustard Seed School	\$400.00
2024	S. Sacramento Interfaith Partnership	\$400.00
2024	Elk Grove Food Bank	\$400.00
2024	St. John’s Program for Real Change	\$400.00
2024	Samaritans Purse	\$400.00
2024	Boys and Girls Clubs of Sacramento	\$400.00
2024	Chicks in Crisis	\$400.00
2024	School Project Backpacks	\$400.00
2024	Wind Youth Services	\$400.00
2024	City of Refuge	\$400.00
2024	My Sister House	\$400.00
2024	Sacramento Food Bank	\$400.00
2024	Charles Mack & Parkway Elementary School	\$500.00
2024	New Pastor Installation	\$400.00
		\$6,500.00



These are the organizations that W-ELCA has voted to provide with donations from their Benevolent Fund. Funds are raised primarily from Bunco Night in June and the Fall Festival in October.

W-ELCA President



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, *February 14*, this year. We will have a special Valentine's Day Soup Supper in Schultz Hall at 6:00 p.m. followed by Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The theme of the Ash Wednesday Service will be "Till Death Do Us Part".

After the special Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service on February 14th, we will start our regular schedule for Lenten Soup Suppers and Services. The Soup Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. The brief Service will be from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both will be held in the Multipurpose Room. The theme of the Lenten Services this year is "Eyewitness". Pastor Carl will play the owner of the donkey that the disciples took to use for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. Marlene Kiser will play his wife. The owner of the donkey and his wife were very curious what about what was happening with their donkey, so they followed Jesus and his disciples and became eyewitnesses to the vital events of Holy Week. Through the experience, they became believers.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Join us *Wednesday February 14th* in Schultz Hall for Soup Supper at **6:00pm**. Ash Wednesday worship will be at **7:00pm** in the sanctuary. *Wednesday February 21st through March 20th* the soup supper will be at 6:00pm with service following at 6:30pm. They will both be in the multipurpose room. To contribute soup, bread or dessert, please sign-up in the narthex.

The Evangelism Board coordinates the Church council boards and/or groups that host each supper. Each board/group sets up the room and provides soups, breads, desserts and clean-up. WELCA will host the first Soup Supper. Below is the list of groups and dates for each Soup Supper:

February 14th: WELCA

February 21st: Community Concerns and Evangelism

February 28th: Council and Christian Education

March 6th: Youth, Worship and Music, and Choir

March 13th: Property and Finance

March 20th: Congregation

For any questions please contact Cathy Davis.



PROPERTY BOARD 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The St. Luke's Constitution/Bylaws states that the Property Board is responsible for the "general custodial management of this congregation's property and facilities". These responsibilities include the care, maintenance, and improvement of St. Luke's equipment, furnishings, buildings, and grounds. The following summarizes the actions of the Board in 2023.

January Storms: The January 2023 storms caused a considerable mess, but fortunately the facilities did not suffer any structural damage, although an existing roof leak was exposed in the Narthex. *Recently, the leak was patched for \$950, and it appears to have stopped the leak.* The storms also blew down a large Cypress tree. The Cypress was removed by a contractor (\$1,500) and the debris was picked up by members. The cleanup efforts created a huge bush pile. A member donated funds to eventually remove the bush pile.

Storm Drainage Fee: Although the Board continued to challenge the increased 2022 drainage fee until mid-year 2023, the City issued a decision in late 2022 that was essentially final. The decision resulted in a small saving of \$175 annually. Computation errors created a one-time saving of \$2,591. Total storm drainage fees currently exceed \$6,300 annually.

Grant, New Fence: In late 2022, the Board received the Council's approval to apply for an Office of Emergency Services (OES) grant to install a fence across the south end of the Parking Lot. On February 3, 2023, St. Luke was awarded the \$30,000 grant. However, certain documents must be filed with OES es before any work begins. It was learned at this time that listed name for St. Luke by ELCA was incorrect. After considerable effort, the name was corrected to agree with the California incorporation name, "St. Luke Lutheran Church of Sacramento, California". On August 3, 2023, the approval letter was received to proceed with the grant work. Proposals have been received from four firms, three of which were acceptable, and a firm has been selected to install the fence. The installer is now awaiting a building permit from the City.

Homelessness/Vandalism: Other than occasional trash dumping, 2023 has been relatively calm, except one car was dumped in the Parking Lot. The auto removal expense was \$150.

Utilities: St. Luke is no exception to the rising utility costs. Despite efforts to budget at a reasonable level, the two major utilities – electricity and natural gas – both exceeded budget estimates, with gas being the biggest culprit (surpassing the budget by \$1,210 or 50 percent). Appropriate adjustments have been made for the 2024 Budget. Certain recycling regulations changed in 2023; thus, increasing the expense for refuse services. In addition, at times, unauthorized people use the St. Luke's dumpster, which can cause overfill charges. *Please minimize the volume of refuse as feasible.* Currently, St. Luke is exempt from recycling "organic" waste (the green bin). Refuse services that are contracted for include one cubic yard of "trash" weekly (the black bin) and one 64-gallon can of "dry recycle" every four weeks (the blue bin). The City and County charges (water, sewer, etc.) were as estimated for the 2023 Budget.

Facility Maintenance: The required facility maintenance work was performed by members and contractors, depending on the complexity of the work required. A major expense in 2023 was repairs for the large refrigerator (\$881). Other maintenance expenses were the typical costs associated with maintaining a large facility – plumbing (two occasions or 2X), HVAC systems (3X), irrigation systems (4X), electrical (8X plus bulb replacements), and door repairs (2X). In addition, member Bill Myers converted the fluorescent lighting in Rooms 2 and 5 in the Education Wing to efficient LED lighting. Thank you, Bill. The total cost for facility maintenance in 2023 was \$2,364.

Miscellaneous Actions:

- Increased St. Luke's security by installing additional cameras and a repeater device. These efforts were performed by Board Member Ed Ireton, Kirsten, and Ben. Thank you, the Iretons.
- Conducted a successful spring All Members Work Day. This Work Day was managed by Board Member Kelly Boyer. Thank you, Kelly.
- Repaired the carillon by replacing the computer battery. The work was performed by member Duane Kiser. Thank you, Duane.
- Recycled plastic and aluminum containers. The proceeds were deposited in the Youth Fund. This effort was performed exclusively by member Bruce Kiser. Thank you, Bruce.
- Cleaned up pigeon droppings and discouraged their resident at St. Luke, which was eventually successful.
- Installed a camera platform for live streaming worship services. Also, threaded an Ethernet cable, through accessible spaces, from the platform to the control console. These efforts were completed by Board Helper Bill Meyers and Jack Fenske.
- Repainted the front office of the Office. This was exclusively a Soul Sisters project, and they deserve the credit. Thank you, Soul Sisters.
- Prepared a revised Custodian Duty Statement that conformed to the current paid sick leave laws.
- Performed numerous minor chores, such as pruning roses, replacing light bulbs, weeding planter areas, setting thermostats, purchasing and delivering of janitorial supplies, replacing HVAC filters, picking up and disposing of dumped trash, and many other day-by-day tasks. A huge thank you to Board Member Bruce Kiser, who frequently is called upon for these chores.

Closing Notes: In the past, much of St. Luke's maintenance work has been accomplished by Property Board members. However, with the aging of its members, it is now necessary to employ outside help, which is costly. The Property Board has envisioned a part-time maintenance person for many years. The Board prayerfully hopes that the Budget will, in the near future, support this needed position.

The PB members for 2022 were Clarence Korhonen (chairperson), Ben Briel, Kelly Boyer, Jack Fenske, Ed Ireton, Jon Linfor, Paul Linfor, and Bruce Kiser. Board Helpers were Bill Myers and Jerry Thomas. On St. Luke's behalf, I thank the Board members and helpers for their dedication and hours of devoted work.

Clarence Korhonen, Chairperson

St. Luke's Property Board

Update From Facilities Use

Shultz Hall Not Available

February 24-March 8
General election March 5th

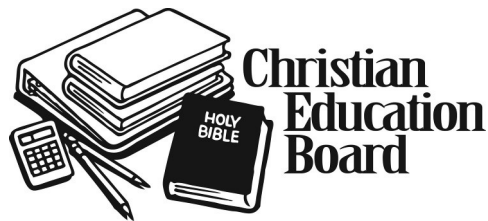
October 26-November 8
General election November 5th

Every room has a clipboard with the bright colored paper on the top. Except for room 4, it has a bright paper hanging on the bottom of the clipboard.

Please fill out the form when you are done with the room you have used.

I have also put a calendar at the back of the papers (forms) so you can see who is in each room at the church.

Thank you,
Linda Duffek



With a HUGE thanks to Peggy Moser and Kelly Boyer we ended 2023 with more kids in Sunday school since before 2020!

2023 started out with one room Sunday School. Peggy was finding that the curriculum we had was not engaging enough for the expansive ages in our kids. After conferring over the Summer, it was decided to try a new set of curriculum, and to move to a two-room Sunday School in the Fall.

We have Peggy teaching our youngest kiddos and Kelly teaching the older bunch. On our busiest Sunday there can be up to 11 kids total in attendance, and the new curriculum seems to work well in both classes!

We hope to see more kids arriving in 2024, and we encourage parents and grandparents to bring their children or grandchildren to St. Luke. Our wonderful teachers would love to teach them the word of the Lord!

Also if anyone feels a pull toward being one of our teachers, we can always use the help. Sickness and conflicts in scheduling can lead to our teachers needing some Sundays off, so even just being willing to fill in on a substitute basis would be a huge help!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions suggestions or concerns!

Laura Tice
Education Chair
(916)271-7566



Community Concerns Year End Recap 2023 Annual Report

We collected 71 hats, 57 pairs of gloves and 11 scarves. All items were donated to Sister Libby, Loaves and Fishes, Union Gospel. We gave hats to the Children's receiving home. We collected 547 pairs of socks that were donated by the congregation. Socks were given to Union Gospel, Loaves and Fishes, Sister Libby, and City of Refuge.

We had a great turn out on Jan 29th to help organize the Children's Clothing Closet. We now have two signs made for the Clothes Closet advertising the closet and our hours we are open. Both signs are hung up and we are ready for anyone who needs children's clothing.

Super Bowl Sunday was a huge success with 78 canned food items donated to the Inter-faith Partnership Food Bank.

We put together over 60 blessing bags and give them out to those in need.

We collected school supplies and filled 140 backpacks. We delivered them to Charles Mack and Fortune Schools.

We gave \$500.00 to both Sister Libby of the Mercy Peddler's and Wellspring for Women. Community Concerns hosted a BBQ on the first of July to promote both the fireworks booth and St. Luke's. It was 103 degrees that day, so we only had a handful of people stop by.

Collected items for Stanford Sierra Youth & Families for Christmas.

Facility Use Recap:

Outside groups that have used space so far this year are NA, AA, Visions, Sac County Polling Place, Jazz Educations Foundation, Sac Youth Band, and Kiwanis. Space is also used by Soul Sisters and WELCA along with various board meetings.

**The Community Concerns Board will be meeting on the 2nd Thursdays
of every month at 2:00pm in Room 5.**

**This months meeting will be Thursday, February 8th at 2:00pm
in Room 5.**



Community Concerns Board Sponsors Serving a Hot Meal to the Homeless Gathering Inn – Elk Grove Winter Sanctuary

The Gathering Inn was organized in 2004. It started out as a Winter-season, night only shelter for 40 individuals experiencing homelessness. Today, this organization offers emergency food/shelter for homeless men, women and families in Roseville and Auburn. They also help these individuals/families find permanent housing, jobs, medical care etc. In 2023, using funds earmarked for tackling homelessness in the City of Elk Grove, a partnership was secured with the Gathering Inn to sponsor a Winter Sanctuary for up to 35 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City. It is located at the corner of Elk Grove Boulevard and Waterman in the former Rite Aid building.

From Mid-November 2023 through March 2024, this Winter Sanctuary provides a safe, warm place for these individuals to stay (pets allowed), any needed clothing/shoes, services to search for and secure a job, services to help locate permanent housing and services to ensure these individuals get the medical care they need. Each day of their stay, they receive 3 meals. The dinner meal is sponsored by faith-based communities and other organizations/businesses in the Elk Grove and surrounding Sacramento areas.

On the second Sunday of last November, December and then in January, our Community Concerns Board prepared a hot meal and then served it to the residents and staff at the Winter Sanctuary. The residents were so thankful and happy to be able to enjoy a delicious, hot “home-cooked” meal. We thoroughly enjoyed serving them and interacting in conversations with them as they were eating.

Inviting the Congregation to join us.....

On the second Sunday of February (February 11) and March (March 10), the Community Concerns Board invites the Congregation to join us in preparing the meal and serving it (if desired but not required). And, we are making it easy for anyone who wants to participate. On the opportunities table in the Church Narthex, there is a sign-up sheet for each month. We have selected the menu for each meal and indicated what is needed to prepare the meal at the Church. We need to prepare enough to feed 35 people. You can sign up to provide an item(s) and/or help us prepare the meal. Or, if you just want to join us to serve the meal, you can do that also.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for helping us serve in our community.

Kathleen Arndt
Community Concerns Board - Chair

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILDREN'S CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN! Child Clothing/Shoe Donations Accepted

About the Children's Clothes Closet - The Community Concerns Board is pleased to announce that the Children's Clothes Closet is setup and open to serve our neighboring community. It is located in Room 1 in the Education Wing. We provide clothing and shoes for Children ages newborn to 14. The normal open hours are **Monday's 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Special appointment times can be arranged by calling the Church Office.

We now have 2 new signs to display on the street side of the Church property. One is currently displayed on the Board facing Tangerine and Center Parkway. The other sign will be displayed somewhere on the grass area facing Center Parkway down by Schultz Hall. Details about the exact location and what will be used to display it are still to be determined.

Children Clothing/Shoe Donations Accepted - Anytime throughout the year, we accept clothing donations (includes coats) and shoes. The Clothing must be clean/washed and cannot have holes/rips (gently used). The sizes should fit a child from ages newborn to 14. Shoes are accepted as long as they are in good condition.

All donations can be dropped off in front of Room 1. If you need a donation picked up, please contact the Church Office and a pick-up will be arranged. Please contact Kathleen Arndt or anyone on the Community Concerns Board if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support from all of us on the Community Concerns Board.

Kathleen Arndt
Community Concerns Board Chair





100th Anniversary Cookbook

Our 100th Anniversary Committee is planning a wonderful series of events to celebrate this very special milestone. One of the projects in the works is an Anniversary Cookbook. We are requesting recipes from family and friends of St. Luke's to share in this special cookbook. If you have favorite dishes from

**Submit
Your
Recipes**



all categories (appetizers, breads, main dishes, side dishes, salads/soups, desserts) that you would like included in the cookbook, please email these recipes to Kirsten Ireton at kji95758@gmail.com or Sarah Madison at sjomad@aol.com. We are really looking forward to making this project a great success with your entries. Recipes can be submitted any time **BEFORE April 1, 2024.**



2023 Annual Report – Evangelism Board

Our year began with our Epiphany Breakfast and Service on Friday January 6, 2023. We had a wonderful Breakfast of Egg Casseroles, Fruit and Pastries. Also a great service after Breakfast. In February we coordinated the Installation Potluck for Pastor Brian. We had our first Lenten Soup Supper on February 22, 2023. The Evangelism Board helps set up Schultz Hall. In March we installed New Members and provided New Member Bags provided by Kathy Arndt and a Special Cake. In April, we provided a Continental Breakfast of Pastries, Juice and Coffee. In June, we served Pie and Ice Cream in honor of the Special Men in our Congregation. In July we started our Seven Week Summer Bible Study with a Potluck each week. We helped with the Setting Up of the Room. Also we started the Visitations with Pastor Carl. In August, we served Root Beer and Orange Soda. In October we provided a Confirmation Cake for the two Young Men that Pastor Carl Confirmed. In November we provided a Pie Social. All left over Pies went to the AA Group Marathon. Each week we provided Coffee and Pastries for After Service Refreshments. Twice a month we accompany Pastor Carl on Visitations with Shut-ins. We give out Welcome Bean Jars to Visitors after Service. We continue to send out Get Well Cards, Thinking of You Cards and Sympathy Cards when needed. We provide New Member Bags with goodies in the bag.

In Christ, Carole Vance

Sunday Worship Attendance in December/January

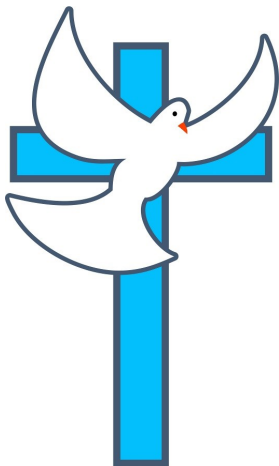
In Person Attendance

Dec. 24th	96
Dec. 31st	60
Jan. 7th	60
Jan. 14th	62
Jan. 21st	63
Jan. 28th	54

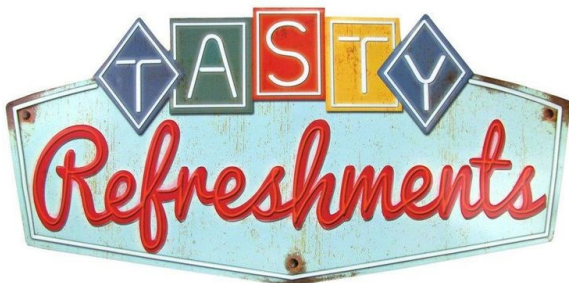
YouTube Views

Dec. 24th	56
Dec. 31st	34
Jan. 7th	23
Jan. 14th	16
Jan. 21st	26
Jan. 28th	30

Baptism



Frank Woods will be baptized at Worship on ***Sunday, February 4th***. He would love to have others join him in being baptized. If you or a family member are interested, please contact Pastor Carl right away.



February 2024 Refreshments Provided by:

- February 4:** Jacob & Christiana Wilson
- February 11:** Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett
- February 18:** Justin & Laura Tice
- February 25:** Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer



Worship and Music committee

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Worship & Music Board works with our Pastor to ensure that myriad duties required during regular and special services are handled. Some of our activities during 2023 included:

- worked with Pastor Brian to acclimate him to St. Luke's and assisted him on preparations for his installation service
- Ash Wednesday, we were blessed to be able to receive ashes directly from the Pastor (the Covid Pandemic had prevented this during several prior years.)
- Resumed Soup Suppers on Wednesdays during Lent with a Lenten message from guest ministry partners
- Held a "Work Day" the Saturday before Palm Sunday to clean and polish all elements used during services, including the candelabras, and assisted the Property Committee in decorating the church for Palm Sunday
- Assisted in the Maundy Thursday service which included stripping the Altar
- Decorated the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday
- Displayed the Veterans' Banners on May 28th in recognition of Memorial day; assisted Guest Pastors during services in May and June
- Graduates were honored in June and given a "Balloon Bouquet"
- In July, we welcomed Pastor Carl and his family back to St. Luke's, as he was given a special dispensation to be our Term Pastor while we search for a permanent Pastor
- In August, Marlene Kiser and Pastor Carl started the search for new video equipment because the system badly needed to be upgraded. After several months of research and work, the new equipment was installed by the Property Board and was finally operational in December. Pastor Carl secured funding from several memorial funds and Luau funds.
- The Choir, led by Jane Fanucci, resumed practicing on September 6th and began singing again during Sunday services, filling the church with wonderful music
- In October, we were blessed to have Bill Myers agree to be St. Luke's Head Usher
- Veterans Banners were again displayed November 12th for Veterans Day
- The Sanctuary was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Services began with a special Advent reading and lighting of the Advent Candles. Poinsettias were ordered and also decorated the Sanctuary during the latter part of the month. The gorgeous new Christmas tree was a special gift from the Hoppman Family (how many noticed it is artificial??) The annual Cantata was performed by the Choir on December 17th. It was, as always, an outstanding event.
- Provided the quarterly editions of "Christ In our Home" as well as the annual Devotionals for Lent and Advent

Many years ago, when I first inquired about the responsibilities of the Worship & Music Board, I was told that everything that happens in the Sanctuary of the church is the responsibility of this Board. While there are many things we do each Sunday that are visible (choir, ushers, acolytes, scripture readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, sound board and web video, etc.), there are many other duties that are performed that some church members may be unaware of. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who play an essential part in the various duties of the Worship & Music Board:

Peggy Moser – makes sure our lovely banners are in place, according to the church calendar; she also teaches Sunday School and picks up all the loose ends as needed; she has been an extraordinary mentor for me.

Jacob Wilson – brings his keyboard and plays the prelude at almost every service as well as performing solos for special music during the year

Bob Behr – sets the candelabras in place and refills the Sanctuary Candle early on Sunday mornings

Marlene Kiser – operates the sound system and online video system of our services and schedules Altar Care assistants

Jeff Kiser – fills the candles and candelabras with oil every Sunday after services, and fills in to operate the sound board and online video system as needed

Barbara Manlapig – schedules Scripture Readers and Prayer Leaders

Karen Linfor – is our song leader and performs solos for special music

Faith Thomas – schedules Communion Assistants

Dorothy Haney – takes attendance each Sunday

Kelly Boyer, Kathleen Arndt, and Andrew Weber who often assisted with ushering duties

Bill Myers who is now our Head Usher

I also want to acknowledge Jane Fanucci for the excellent job she does as our Organist and Choir Director. Our choir is small, but they are outstanding!

In Christ's Love,

Shirley Prouty, 2023 Chair, Worship & Music Board

St Luke Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report for 2023

Hello St. Luke's Family! Attached you will find our 2023 year-end reports for the "Special Funds" and "General Fund and Budget". As a reminder, the Special Funds Account holds those donations/receipts which are designated for special purposes such as memorials, Sunday School offerings, youth, fireworks, property, etc. The General Fund includes all the money which comes into the church by means of offerings, facility use donations, etc. and our budgeted expenses that were approved at the Congregational Meeting in December 2022. The church's hard-working Finance Board provides oversight and guidance for both accounts. The data presented here in the reports are audited on a quarterly basis and then again annually according to our Policy & Procedures.

Special Funds

As you may recall, the Special Funds Account was established over 20 years ago to accommodate funds received for special or designated purposes outside of the general budgetary fund. Its purpose and management are addressed in St Luke's Policy & Procedure 2000-1. This account is managed by a Council-approved Special Funds Recorder Connie Reule. Within the Special Funds Account is the Reserve Fund, with oversight provided by the Church Council and /or Congregation. It is used primarily for emergency and/or unexpected needs, or in our current situation, as needed to supplement normal expenses. The Special Funds account also continues to support the designation of 10% of the receipts from the Fireworks booth to a number of community agencies upon the recommendations provided by the Community Concerns Board. The Special Funds report shows the various designated subaccounts and existing balances as of December 31, 2023. Items of note this year include the spending down of many of the memorial fund accounts for special projects. We thank Pastor Carl for seeing to the use of these funds in an appropriate and meaningful way. You may review his report for some of the highlights.

General Fund and Budget

The General Fund report shows the budgeted and expensed items by budget account for December 2023 and for the entire year 2023. The General Fund is managed by me, the Congregation-elected Treasurer and our Finance Board. As the Treasurer, I am responsible for the payment of all of the church bills, payroll and taxes of our 4 employees. This year, our income exceeded our budgeted expectations. This was fantastic to see. On the expenses side, we took some hits on the natural gas and electricity expenses; you may have noticed increases of these items in your own home as well. I encourage you to review our expenses and reach out to me with any questions. Perhaps you may be interested in being a part of our Finance Board and working alongside us and helping grow our church. As budgeted for 2023 and to meet our expenses, we supplemented the normal income with funds from the Fireworks Booth receipts (\$2,700) along with funds from the Reserve account (\$24,000). This supplemental income was beneficial and did cover all the expenses. In the end, we transferred back to the Reserve account \$42,590.79, which was \$18,590 more than we transferred out. Our end of the year checkbook balance on December 31, 2023 was \$22,700.00. The main reason for our excess funds was due to not having a permanent pastor here at St Luke.

Looking Forward to 2024

Trying to support a 3/4 or even a full-time pastor will need to take creative thinking and the entire congregation, plus paying for all the increased expenses for our church while remaining relevant in our community. While we ended 2023 on a positive note, we mustn't be complacent in our giving and the sharing of our church family with others. We need to increase the number of regular givers and the amount received each month in offering to be able to sustain us going forward. I look forward to seeing how we can all work together for the common goal of strengthening our church and making it a wonderful place for worship and praise.

In His Service,
Kirsten Ireton
Treasurer, St Luke Lutheran Church

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT

December 2023

Summary Report:

Sub-Fund	Number	Balance*	Comments
Memorials:			
Under \$99.99	3	\$ 237.47	
\$100.00 to \$249.99	2	\$ 340.00	
\$250.00 to \$499.99	2	\$ 800.00	
\$499.99 to \$999.99	2	\$ 1,330.00	
Over \$1,000.00			
Subtotal	9	\$ 2,707.47	
Special Funds Accounts			
Anniversary Fund		\$ 462.00	
Community Concerns		\$ 3,692.45	
Crab Feed Fund		\$ 837.92	
Evangelism Board Fund		\$ 1,115.41	
Fireworks Booth		\$ 500.00	
Luau Music		\$ 2,368.52	
Parking Lot Fund		\$ 12,000.00	
Pastoral Assistance Fund		\$ 1,430.74	
Property Board		\$ 16,707.65	
Reserve Fund		\$ 65,741.15	
Reule Handbell Fund		\$ 1,633.17	
Sunday School Fund		\$ 1,774.76	
Youth Activity Fund		\$ 4,909.14	
Subtotal		\$ 113,172.91	
TOTAL		\$ 115,880.38	

Bank Statement Balance	12/31/2023	\$ 72,827.59	
Check's/Deposits not cleared/posted	Net	\$ 43,052.79	
Adjusted Bank Statement Balance		\$ 115,880.38	Special Funds Balance 12/31/2023

Connie Reule
Special Fund Recorder

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report

December of Fiscal Year 2023

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - General Fund

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income				
Major 40, Church Income // Minor 10, Designated Giving				
01 - Envelope Offerings	12,833.00	11,808.00	154,000.00	171,029.50
02 - Loose Cash Offerings	83.00	2,567.00	1,000.00	6,481.96
03 - Flower Income	250.00	425.00	500.00	780.00
04 - Facility Usage	166.00	290.00	2,000.00	8,157.00
05 - Reimbursements/Rebates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
06 - Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,246.30
07 - Reserve	2,000.00	2,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
08 - Fireworks 2022	225.00	225.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
09 - VANCO E-Giving	420.00	719.00	5,050.00	6,182.15
	15,977.00	18,034.00	189,250.00	221,576.91
Total Income	15,977.00	18,034.00	189,250.00	221,576.91

Expense				
Major 51, General Budget // Minor 10, Synod/ELCA				
01 - Synod Benevolence	133.00	150.94	1,600.00	1,836.94
02 - Other ELCA Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,737.00
	133.00	150.94	1,600.00	3,573.94

Major 52, General Budget Expense // Minor 10, Executive Committee				
01 - Pastor's Wages	1,010.83	0.00	22,896.64	16,494.72
03 - Pastor Housing Allowance	5,400.00	0.00	54,033.34	19,833.36
04 - Pastor's Benefits (ELCA)	728.42	0.00	8,741.00	4,127.71
05 - Pastor's HSA	450.00	0.00	5,400.00	2,700.00
06 - Pastor's Cont Education	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	700.46
08 - Pastor's Mileage	125.00	0.00	1,500.00	279.04
09 - Prof Leadership Conf	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
10 - Office Secretary Wages	1,040.00	1,040.00	12,480.00	12,484.00
11 - Sub Pastors & Others	0.00	0.00	2,100.00	2,800.00
12 - Stewardship Program Exp	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
13 - Staff Training/Checks	0.00	0.00	180.00	74.00
14 - Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15 - Term Pastor Wages	0.00	718.00	0.00	4,308.00
16 - Term Pastor Portico	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
17 - Term Pastor Mileage	0.00	126.42	0.00	851.51
18 - Term Pastor Conferences	0.00	0.00	0.00	720.39
	8,854.25	6,884.42	109,730.98	95,373.19

Major 53, General Budget // Minor 10, Community Concerns Bd				
01 - CC Program Exp	25.00	63.03	100.00	63.03
	25.00	63.03	100.00	63.03

Major 54, General Budget // Minor 10, Education Board				
01 - Sunday School	0.00	0.00	200.00	404.96
02 - Adult Education Curriculum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03 - Other Education Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	200.00	404.96

Major 55, General Budget // Minor 10, Evangelism Board				
01 - Evangelism Program Exp	25.00	0.00	250.00	57.91

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report

December of Fiscal Year 2023

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - General Fund

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	25.00	0.00	250.00	57.91
Major 56, General Budget // Minor 10, Worship/Music Board				
01 - Organist/Choir Director	1,234.00	1,234.00	14,808.00	14,808.00
02 - Worship Supplies	125.00	38.01	1,500.00	1,245.81
03 - Flower Exp	250.00	325.92	500.00	784.50
04 - W&M Other Exp	50.00	0.00	200.00	100.00
	1,659.00	1,597.93	17,008.00	16,938.31
Major 57, General Budget // Minor 10, Youth Board				
01 - Youth Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Major 58, General Budget // Minor 10, Finance Board				
01 - Payroll Taxes	207.83	210.37	2,494.00	2,493.67
02 - Workers Comp Ins	259.00	307.32	1,039.00	835.10
03 - Property Fees & Taxes	0.00	0.00	3,800.00	3,378.82
04 - Liability Property Ins	2,345.25	2,840.75	9,381.00	9,741.50
05 - Office Supplies	41.00	109.82	500.00	830.88
06 - Telephone	41.00	41.52	492.00	488.42
07 - Postage	0.00	0.00	50.00	113.40
08 - Internet	52.50	53.50	630.00	642.00
09 - Copier/ Off.Equip. Suppt	170.00	177.87	2,040.00	2,191.55
10 - Computer/Sftwr Supp	0.00	155.88	600.00	1,137.16
11 - Lay Conference/Convention	0.00	0.00	1,300.00	997.24
12 - Misc. Fees & Taxes	25.00	0.00	200.00	10.00
13 - VANCO Fees	12.00	12.90	135.00	103.78
	3,153.58	3,909.93	22,661.00	22,963.52
Major 59, General Budget // Minor 10, Property Board				
01 - Facility Maintenance	175.00	858.16	2,100.00	2,363.59
02 - Janitor Wages	476.00	476.00	5,304.00	5,304.00
04 - Landscape Svc Contract	850.00	850.00	10,200.00	10,200.00
05 - Refuse Services	275.00	224.66	1,500.00	1,630.81
06 - Electricity	325.00	368.44	3,900.00	4,629.80
07 - Natural Gas	325.00	267.04	2,400.00	3,609.79
08 - Sewer Charges	0.00	0.00	1,620.00	1,596.36
09 - Water Charges	120.00	295.51	3,120.00	3,154.87
10 - Storm Drainage Fees	558.00	526.36	6,696.00	6,241.59
11 - Street Sweeping Fees	5.00	5.30	60.00	63.40
12 - Janitorial Supplies	0.00	0.00	800.00	827.05
	3,109.00	3,871.47	37,700.00	39,621.26
Major 60, General Budget // Minor 10, Bank Transfer				
01 - Bank Transfer	0.00	42,590.79	0.00	42,590.79
	0.00	42,590.79	0.00	42,590.79
Total Expense	16,958.83	59,068.51	189,249.98	221,586.91
Income Less Expense	-\$981.83	-\$41,034.51	\$0.02	-\$10.00

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
December & Year-End Report – 2023

General Fund Contributions (only)		
Data	December	2023 Total
Total Contributions	\$15,094	\$183,694
Compared to Budget	\$1,758	\$23,644
	13.2%	14.8%
Compared to 2022	\$1,841	\$27,513
	13.9%	17.6%
No. of Contributors		
2023 (This Year)	59	56 avg.
2022 (Last Year)	57	52 avg.

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

Other Contributions		
	December	2023 Total
Sunday School		\$32
Memorials		\$ 100
Thank Offering (1)		\$1,258
Special Gifts (2)	\$656	\$3,761
Easter Lily		\$355
Poinsettias	\$425	\$425
Youth Fund	\$10	\$45
Fireworks Donations		\$330

A W-ELCA benevolence effort.

Special Gifts:

- Pastor Brian's installation offering.
- Educational Wing lighting.
- Materials for Work Day.
- Computer donations.
- ELCA Disaster Relief gifts (Maui).
- Removal of large brush pile.
- Anniversary Celebration fundraiser (a Soul Sisters effort).
- Office lighting fixtures.

Year-End Comments:

- A. Thank you for your continuing support!
- B. The December contributions sustained the increased giving trend for St. Luke. In total, the General Fund contributions increased about 18 percent from 2022.
- C. The total General Fund contributions for 2023 surpassed the Budgeted contributions by \$23,644 (about 15 percent).
- D. The increased giving has lessened, but not eliminated, the reliance on Reserve funds to support a permanent pastor. For 2024, \$10,609 Reserve funds were necessary to balance the Budget.
- E. Although the average number of discrete monthly contributors has increased slightly, a continuing concern is that a sufficient number of contributors has not been achieved to support a permanent pastor. *Note: A "discrete contributor is a contributor that has given one or more times during the month.*

General Comments:

- A. Annual statements of your 2023 contributions will be distributed in January, for all contributors. If you do not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact me as noted below.
- B. Contributions can now be made electronically (online), in addition to conventional means. For details, go to St. Luke's website www.slelca.org and click on the "Giving" heading for details. For example, several members are successfully using their bank's Pay Bills system.
- C. When using offering envelopes, use numbered envelopes, when feasible. The use of numbered envelopes speeds up the Sunday counting process, makes record-keeping easier, and most importantly, minimizes errors.
- D. If you need numbered offering envelopes, please contact me either by email or telephone or simply put a note in the offering plate.
- E. If you are 70 years or older and have IRAs, please consult with your Financial Adviser or tax preparer regarding "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCDs). There are some real opportunities for tax savings through QCDs.

F. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Financial Secretary's duties or reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.

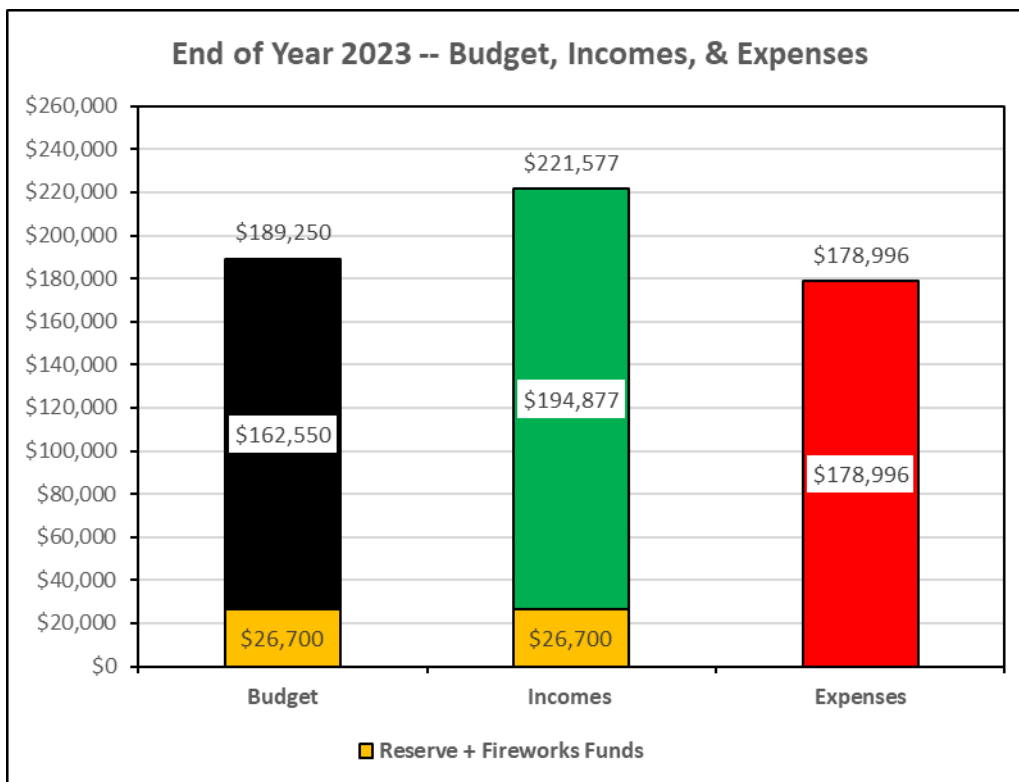
G. Your continuing support is appreciated. Thank you.

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

St. Luke's Financial Secretary

FINANCES for END OF YEAR 2023

Thank you all for your contributions and support



To supplement the Financial Secretary's report on contributions, the Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the end of year 2023 figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$194,877) exceed the Expenses (\$178,996) by about \$15,900 which is down slightly from what was reported through November. Please realize that the difference between Budget (\$189,250) and Expenses (\$178,996) is primarily due to not having a full-time pastor. This is also true when comparing the total Incomes to the total Expenses. The total Incomes (\$221,577) exceeded the total Expenses (\$178,996) by approximately \$42,600. These "short-time savings" were transferred to the Reserve Fund in accordance with our Policy & Procedures 2018-1. Some of the Reserve Funds are committed to the 2024 Budget and some may be needed in the hiring of a new pastor in 2024.

"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



February BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Connell	February 03
LaRayna Osako-Cain	February 03
Daniel Encinas	February 07
Jesse Iniguez	February 07
Joesph Mansfield	February 07
Holly Hoppman	February 10
Brooklyn Moser	February 10
Kim Osako	February 12
Robin Zoesch	February 13
Ed Ireton	February 15
Rochelle Jaegar	February 17
Andrew Encinas	February 18
Ron Webb	February 22
Lajuan Andrews	February 24
Donovan Torres	February 26
Megan Thomas	February 27
Cheryl Franklin	February 28



Kelly Sobkowsky
6725 Arboga Way
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-600-5402

WITH DEEPEST *Sympathy*

Carole Johnson passed away on
January 19th 2024.

Mother of Brenda Sulzmann

Thank you for all of your love and prayers for me, my family and my Sweet Mom, Carole Johnson. While it was very sudden, I'm so very thankful it went quickly and she is no longer hurting. She told us in the last few days, "I'm not scared or anxious, I know where I'm going and that I'll see all of you again one day". She was my Mom, my best friend, and Nana Banana to all of the grandkids and great grandkids.

Love you, Miss you Mom!! Till we see each other again, you'll always be in my heart.

Love,
Brenda





February



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, February 4th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader

Sunday, February 11th

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Laura Tice	Prayer Leader

Sunday, February 18th

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Sarah Madison	Reader
Lydia Toloy	Prayer Leader

Sunday, February 25th

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Phillip Petersen	Reader
Howard Triebwasser	Prayer Leader



ALTAR FLOWERS

February 4

February 11 Cathy Davis - In celebration of Ella Neidich's Birthday

February 18 Karen Linfor - In memory of Jerry

February 25

**CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE
FUNDRAISER LUNCH**

MARCH 17TH, 2024

12:00PM

\$20 ADULTS

\$10 KIDS 10 & UNDER

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

100TH ANNIVERSARY

FUNDRAISER

RAFFLE FUN TOO!

**CALL KIRSTEN AT 916-296-5907
FOR TICKETS OR INFO**

RSVP OR PURCHASE BY MARCH 10TH