



March 2024

News and Views

Pastoral Perspective



Our days are filled with temptations ourselves to take “an easier way” or having to deal with the results of others taking “an easier way”. Perhaps there is an area of conflict with your husband or wife or parents or children that needs to be resolved, but facing it together honestly is avoided, or everyone involved just tries to get their own way. That seems easier than really trying to work it out. Perhaps there is a situation where someone is hurting and you know it could make a difference if you reached out, but you don’t. It seems easier to stay away. After all, you might feel the weight of the heavy load yourself if you got involved.

When Jesus considered the suffering ahead as he would face the power of sin, death and Satan during Holy Week, he said, “I am too deeply troubled now to know how to express my feelings. Should I say, ‘Father, save me from this time of suffering? No! I came for this time of suffering. Father, give glory to your name.’” (John 12:27-28)

We need to realize that the desire to keep away from the challenges that honest struggle with hard issues and situations causes is real and human. Jesus, who was fully human, struggled with this. During his time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, he sweat blood as he considered what was ahead of him and asked his Father to take the cup of suffering away from him. An angel from heaven had to appear and give him strength. (Luke 22:41-44) Don’t ever harshly condemn yourself or quickly judge others for struggling with this! It is hard to honestly face difficult situations when it is so tempting to take “an easier way”.

But Jesus went forward and did what he was called to do. His overriding concern was to give glory to God. He most certainly did!

Giving glory to God through our actions isn’t always our overriding concern. Giving glory to God isn’t always the overriding concern of others. Peter, the disciple, wasn’t “there for Jesus” when Jesus really needed him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter fell asleep while Jesus was sweating blood in prayer. Jesus said to him, “Couldn’t you stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you won’t be tempted. You want to do what’s right, but you’re weak.” (Matthew 26:40-41) Peter kept falling asleep. Some never wake up to what it means to act on an overriding concern to give glory to God rather than taking “an easier way”.

The Good News is that the act of Jesus on the cross grants us forgiveness and new life in him. Peter knew the power of this forgiveness and new life. He learned not to rely on himself when he had a hard time facing difficult situations or facing the hurt when others were not there for him. Listen to what he writes. Take it to heart from someone who really knows.

“Turn all your anxiety over to God because he cares for you. Keep your mind clear and be alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour. Be firm in the faith and resist him, knowing that other believers throughout the world are going through the same kind of suffering. God, who shows you his kindness and who has called you through Christ Jesus to his eternal glory, will restore you, strengthen you, make you strong, and support you as you suffer for a little while. Power belongs to him forever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:7-11)

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You, *Pastor Carl*



At our regular meeting, held on February 10, 2024, the Board discussed preparations for the Lenten Season, which began with Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. A delicious Soup Supper preceded the worship service, which was led by Pastor Ron Zoesch due to Term Pastor Carl Hoppman being ill.



YES!! Lenten Soup Suppers returned in 2023, after a three-year hiatus.

Please join us this year in the Multipurpose Room for Soup Supper:

March 6, 2024 – Youth, Worship & Music and Choir

March 13, 2024 – Property and Finance

March 20, 2024 – Congregation

Soup Supper at 6:00 pm followed by Lenten plays. To contribute to Soup Suppers, signup in the Narthex. In addition to soups, desserts and breads are also needed.

Lenten Devotionals are available in the Narthex, next to the doors.





A **Workday** will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, to clean and polish all elements used during services.

Palm branches will also be placed around the church in preparation for Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.



On Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024, service will be held at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and will include stripping the Altar. Please consider participating in both of these events, since many volunteers are needed. Signup sheets will be available in the Narthex in March.



Good Friday service on March 29, 2024, will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



Easter Sunday service, March 31, 2024, will be at 10:30 am. Look for information in this newsletter about plans from the Evangelism Committee regarding a Continental Breakfast before church service on Easter Sunday.

There are many opportunities to volunteer to help in many ways, including our most pressing need, Ushers! If you are interested in helping in any way, please let me or the church office know.

Just a reminder, it is NEVER TOO LATE to join the Choir! Please see Jane Fanucci, Choir Director, if you are interested.

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Andrews, Chair



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

January 2024

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$15,049	\$15,049
Compared to Budget	-\$251	-\$251
	-1.6%	-1.6%
No. of Contributors	51	51

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

Other Contributions:

Memorials -- \$500 (Ken Lentsch memorial)

Comments:

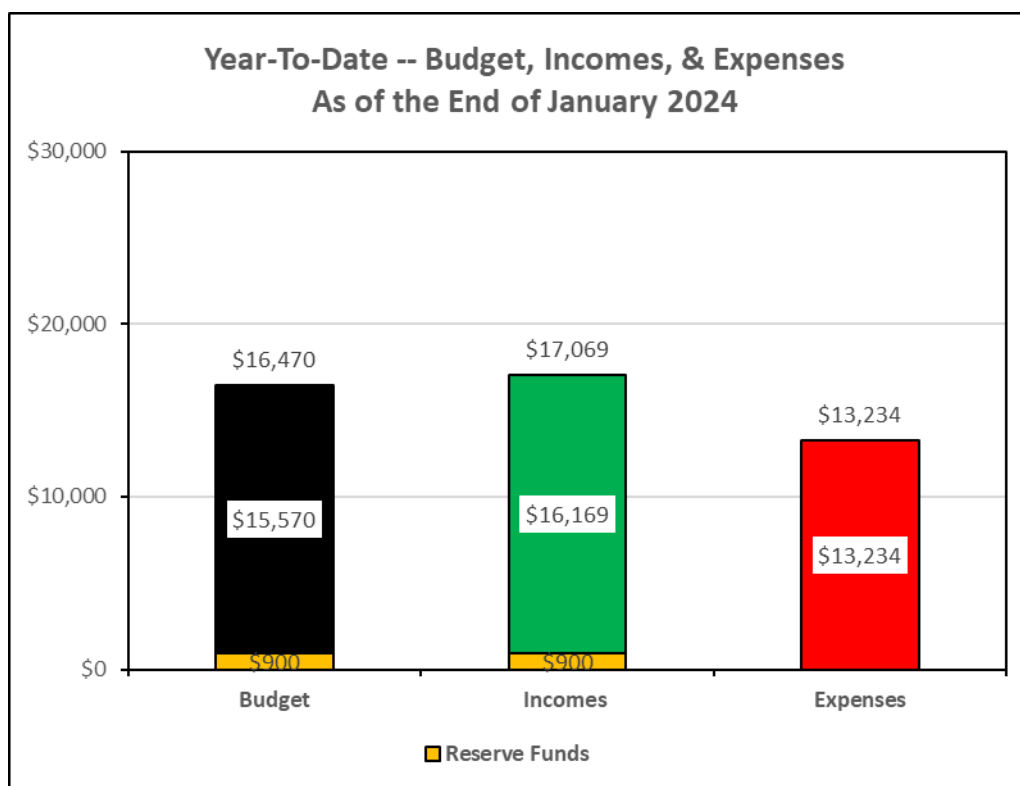
- A. The January offerings were "on budget". Thank you.
- B. Annual statements of 2023 contributions were distributed in January, for all contributors. If you did not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact me as noted below.
- C. The "No. of Contributors", in the table, is the number of contributors who gave one **or more** times during the month.
- D. **Need offering envelopes?** If you need offering envelopes, please contact me either by email or telephone or simply put a note in the offering plate.

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

St. Luke's Financial Secretary

cc: Council members, Finance Board members, Special Fund Recorder

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 January 2024. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve supplement (\$16,169) exceed the Expenses (\$13,234) by about \$2,900. Also, the difference between Budget (\$16,470) and Expenses (\$13,234) is primarily due to not having a full-time pastor. Our goal is to increase our incomes (offerings, facility usage, etc.) such that we are no longer dependent on the Reserve supplement to meet expenses.

"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



ALTAR FLOWERS

Corey Anderson	March 01
Selena Connell	March 05
Elizabeth Brasier	March 06
Jennifer Connell	March 06
Karen Richey	March 06
Renee Roberts	March 06
Laura Tice	March 07
Kevin Kiser	March 09
Jesse Jaeger	March 12
Ben Bates	March 13
Ron Petsch	March 13
Sarah Thomas	March 13
Sarah Madison	March 16
Addison Jaeger	March 19
Mackenzie Harrison	March 17
Irma Lowe	March 23
David Saxby	March 23
Conner Ricciardi	March 24
Amelia Tice	March 24
Bob Harrison	March 26
Lilia Karlstad	March 27
Karen Kiser	March 28
Patricia Lehman	March 29
Bob Behr	March 30
Kelly Sobkowsky	March 30
Theodore Quintero	March 31

March 3 *available*

March 10 *available*

March 17 *available*

March 24 *Punky Dias - 65th Anniversary*

March 31 *available*



March 2024

Refreshments Provided by:

March 3: Triss & Holly Hoppman

March 10: Mack & Carole Vance

March 17: Jacob & Christiana Wilson

March 24: Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett



The 100th Anniversary Committee had its second meeting after church on January 14th, sharing a brown-bag lunch under the leadership of Triss Hoppman. Members volunteered for one of the four Sub-committees: 1) Promotion & fund-raising 2) Service Projects & community events 3) Kick-off & Congregational Events 4) Congregational History & Anniversary book-lets. Subcommittees then met in small groups choosing chairpersons, secretaries and meeting times.

This short summary is the start of keeping the congregation up to speed on the excitement building for the next year.

The sub-committees will be putting together updates throughout the year. This Committee's purpose is to build unity and keep the congregation aware during the preparation for the big 2025 Anniversary! More later!



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 favorites dishes from all categories (appetizers, breads, main dishes, side dishes, salads/soups, desserts) that you would like included in the cookbook, please email these recipes to 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 June 1, 2024**



St. Luke Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary

Corned Beef & Cabbage Fundraiser Lunch

with Raffle Fun!

March 17th, 2024

12:00PM

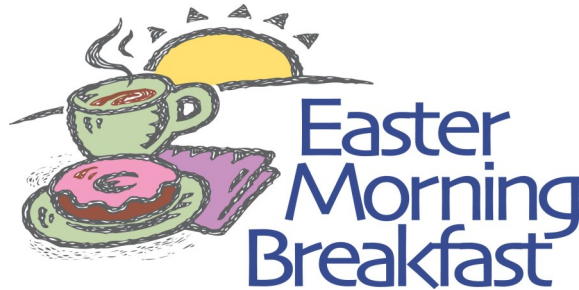
\$20 Adults

\$10 Kids 10 & Under

Call Kirsten at 916-296-5907 for ticket or Info

RSVP or Purchase By March 10th





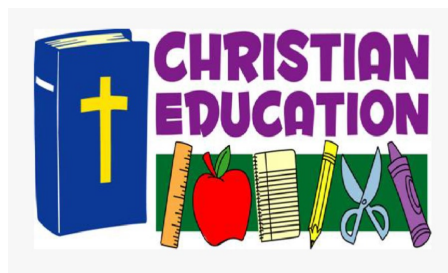
As Easter is approaching the Evangelism Board will be hosting Easter morning continental breakfast at 9:30am.

We are looking for donations of the following breakfast items: bagels, cream cheese, muffins, donuts, pastries, fruit and juice.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

For questions, please contact Cathy Davis.



Hello Friends of Christian Education!

We are looking for your donations of Easter candy and artificial flowers. We want to make up candy bags for the kids/ congregation for Easter and the Sunday School has a craft project they will be working on that will use fake flowers. Please leave your donations in the Narthex or one of the Sunday School rooms. Thank you so much in advance for your support!

Laura Tice



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 3rd

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Shirley Prouty	Reader
Andrew Weber	Prayer Leader



Sunday, March 10th

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Faith Thomas	Reader
Gail Weber	Prayer Leader



Sunday, March 17th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Laura Tice	Reader
Christiana Wilson	Prayer Leader



Sunday, March 24th

(Palm Sunday)

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Lydia Toloy	Reader
Bob Behr	Prayer Leader



Sunday, March 31st

(Easter Sunday)

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Howard Triebwasser	Reader
Kelly Boyer	Prayer Leader

