



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News and Views



2026

Pastoral Perspective

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” – Matthew 18:20

Peace to you all! I hope this finds you well and in a contemplative spirit.

In February, Rebecca and I took a much-needed vacation, and like true millennials with no children, we went to Disneyland. It was a delightful time filled with childlike wonder, many sweet treats, and very sore feet when we were done. It was also a good time of joy before moving into Lent, much like our own Mardi Gras without the humidity of New Orleans.

As you may recall, I warned people that I would be out of the office that week, although I hadn't said what we would be doing. I appreciate the respect and restraint you all had not contacting me during my time away.

I was surprised to receive a call from one of our community: Faith Harper. Given the health issues she has had in the past, I answered, fearing the worst, but was pleasantly surprised to discover she was calling me because she had seen me walking past the Haunted Mansion. She and Tom were also in Disneyland with their grandchildren!



Rebecca and I hurried over to the Jungle Cruise to wait for them to get off the ride. It was such a wonderful, unexpected delight to run into them in a place already packed with joy, and it reminded me that, as Jesus says to his disciples, he is found wherever we are gathered together.

During Lent, we take time on Wednesdays to gather for food and fellowship. During our Lenten devotion times this year, we are focusing on spiritual disciplines, the fifth of which is celebration. Yes, celebration itself can be a discipline, especially when we take time to celebrate the small joys that come out way, like encountering those we hold dear “in the wild.” I thank God for giving Rebecca and me the moment to celebrate as we enjoyed life.

That's all for now!

Blessings,
Pastor Rob

Lenten SOUP Suppers

Each board will be hosting weekly Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00pm. Followed by a brief sermon from Pastor Rob in Schultz Hall at 6:45pm. All are Welcome.

March 4 – Council and Christian Education

March 11 – Youth, Worship and Music and Choir

March 18 – Property and Finance

March 25 – Congregation

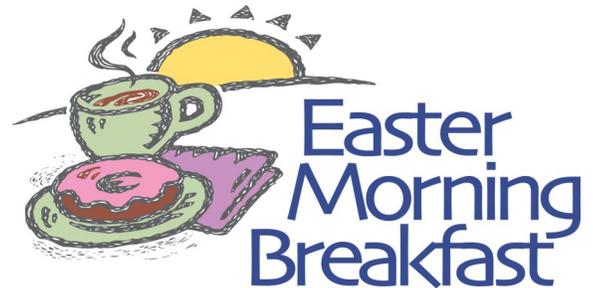
***All boards are responsible for set-up and clean-up*

**Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for donations of soup, bread and desserts.*



W-ELCA March 2026

March W-ELCA Meeting: Saturday, March 14th at 11:30 AM. Lunch is a Baked Potato lunch. Punky Dias will provide potatoes; everyone is requested to bring a topping. All are Welcome. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan on attending. Thank you.



Sign-up to bring - bagels, cream cheese, muffins, pastries, donuts, juice or fruit for an Easter Morning Continental Breakfast at 9:30am April 5th.

Sign-up in the narthex.



Souper Sunday

Results of your votes for Super Bowl champions were 63 Seahawks and 86 Patriots. While we failed to properly predict the winner, we are pleased to report that we collected a total of 149 cans of soup on Souper Sunday, Feb. 8. The board contributed 1 more can, to make it an even 150. These have been passed along to our local food closets; 75 cans each to South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership and the Elk Grove Food Closet. Thank you to everyone who participated and better luck next year.

Save the Date

To help meet our congregational goal of participating in community events, the Community Concerns Board has identified a fun event in the late spring that we can attend as a group. The event is the International Kids Festival, an annual festival in observance of International Children's Day. The event will be held **May 23** at Willam Land Park and features multicultural performances, food and other activities. More information will be forthcoming in April. You can visit their website at *internationalkidsfestival.org*



Finance Update

Financial Secretary's Report: January–February 2026

Because of You, Ministry Continues to Grow

As we move through the first months of 2026, the generosity of the St. Luke's family continues to sustain and strengthen our ministry. The beginning of the year shows steady and faithful giving patterns that provide a solid foundation for the months ahead.

General Fund Giving Summary

January 2026

- Total Contributions: \$16,244 vs Monthly Budget: \$16,200
- Variance: +\$44, Percent of Budget: 100.27%

January giving exceeded expectations and provided a strong start to the new year.

February 2026

- Total Contributions: \$14,907 vs Monthly Budget: \$16,200
- Variance: −\$1,293, Percent of Budget: 92.02%

February giving reflects normal seasonal fluctuation often seen early in the year following strong year-end generosity.

Year-to-Date Giving Outlook (Jan–Feb 2026)

- Year-to-Date Giving: \$31,151 vs Year-to-Date Budget: \$32,400
- Overall Performance: 96.15% of budget, Current Variance: −\$1,249

Congregational giving remains steady and dependable, supported by a healthy balance of in-person and online contributions that help stabilize weekly fluctuations. Current results reflect normal early-year seasonal patterns and do not indicate concern. At just over 96% of budget year-to-date, St. Luke's remains well positioned to sustain ministry, operations, and outreach. With continued consistent giving, particularly recurring online, and planned quarterly and annual gifts, only modest improvement is needed to return fully to budget alignment. Historical seasonal increases provide confidence in a stable financial outlook for 2026.

A Word of Gratitude

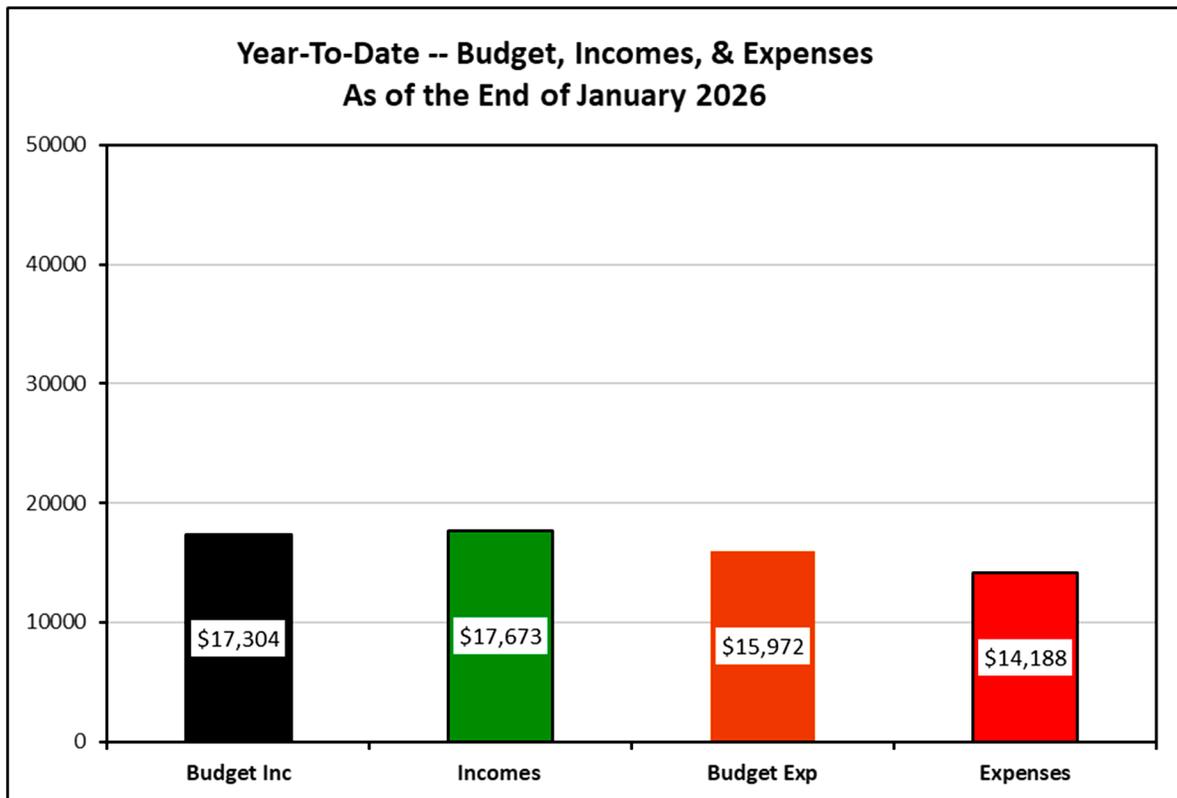
Every offering represents more than dollars received. It reflects faith, stewardship, and shared commitment to the ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Thank you for being part of what God is doing through this congregation.

With gratitude,

Kirsten Ireton

Financial Secretary

FINANCES TO DATE



The Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the **Budget Incomes, Actual Incomes, Budget Expenses, and Actual Expenses**, as of the end of January 2026. As shown, through January, the year-to-date Incomes (\$17,673) exceed the Budget Income (\$17,304) by about \$370. The year-to-date Expenses (\$14,188) are below the Budget Expenses (\$15,972) by approximately \$1,800. Partial “savings” to Expenses are due to lower natural gas use due to the furnace/ heater outage in the sanctuary. Throughout the year the monthly budgeted income will remain the same while the monthly budgeted expenses vary based on various billing cycles. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings help us to continue to meet our commitments through 2026.

FINANCE BOARD

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 1

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Peggy Moser	Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Bob Behr, & Scott Kelly	Communion Servers
Gaylen Everett & Cathy Davis	Ushers

Sunday, March 8

Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Marilyn Ferris Steed	Prayer Leader
Peggy Moser & Linda Duffek	Communion Servers
Laura Tice & Phil Karlstad	Ushers

Sunday, March 15

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Shirley Prouty	Reader
Sarah Madison	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor, Kirsten Ireton & Connie Reule	Communion Servers
Linda Duffek & Phil Peterson	Ushers

Sunday, March 22

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Faith Thomas	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader
Shirley Prouty, Laura Tice & Daniel Laryea	Communion Servers
Christiana Wilson & Laura Sondrini	Ushers

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday)

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Karen Linfor	Reader
Clarence Korhonen	Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Bob Behr & Scott Kelly	Communion Servers
Daniel Laryea & Rosie Brown	Ushers





ALTAR FLOWERS

Corey Anderson	March 01
Ghian Akio Reyes	March 01
John Wiggins	March 02
Selena Connell	March 05
Jennifer Connell	March 06
Karen Richey	March 06
Renee Roberts	March 06
Laura Tice	March 07
Kevin Kiser	March 09
Jesse Jaeger	March 12
Sarah Madison	March 16
Addison Jaeger	March 19
Mackenzie Harrison	March 17
Norita Barrios	March 18
Paul Maki	March 21
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
Ronnie Gadreault	March 30
Theodore Quintero	March 31

March 1 *available*

March 8 *available*

March 15 *available*

March 22 *available*

March 29 *Laura Weaver*
Palm In memory of brother Mike
Sunday



March 2026

Refreshments Provided by:

March 1

Carole & Mack Vance

March 8

Jacob & Christiana Wilson

March 15

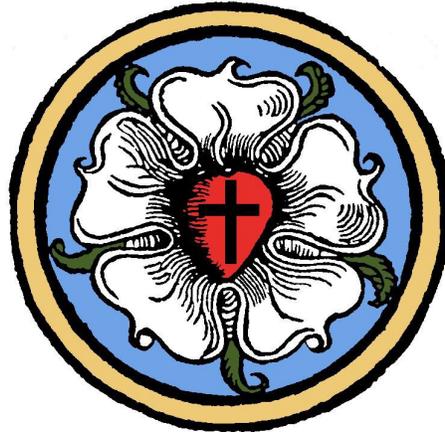
Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett

March 22

Kirsten Ireton

March 29

Laura Weaver & Laura Tice



Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we
accept God's call to spread the Good News,
serve those in need,
and share the Victory of Jesus Christ
throughout the world.

-St. Luke's Mission Statement