



News And Views

April 2024

Pastoral Perspective

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Don't be afraid...' –Matthew 28:10

The women at the empty tomb were filled with fear from what they experienced that first Easter morning. The angel at the tomb and later Jesus himself told them to not be afraid. Why? Quite simply, because there was nothing to be afraid of. Death was conquered. Christ was risen. The victory was won! Those who believe in Him have nothing to fear.

Don't be afraid. Rather live a new life in Christ. Paul exhorts us in Colossians 3:1-3: *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* If you have been caught up in the magnificent Easter conquest of the power of death, then focus your life on the One who can keep you from living and dying in fear.

In the risen Christ is freedom from debilitating fear. We have nothing to be afraid of because we have already died and been given new life in Christ. The risen Christ makes it possible to get beyond pointless grasping at life on our own. We don't have to be hoodwinked into thinking that if we can just get that new thing or situation or circumstance in life we will really be alive, we'll really have it made. When we think this way, we set ourselves up to live in fear—fear of not getting it or losing it once we do. This old grasping frightened self doesn't need to be any more. We are alive **now** in Christ. No one can take that away from us.

The meaning of the resurrection for us, then, is that Christ is now our life. That's saying a lot. Without Him, there is no life for us because we know that without Him there is nothing but fear and death. In Christ alone is the glory and the radiance, the coming forth of the new person, the new Adam or Eve. The circle is completed and all we have to do is allow it to be complete in our lives. We might think all the way back to the sin in the Garden of Eden or just to the last time in our lives when things seemed to fall apart. Because of the risen Christ, that is not the final word. Because of His resurrection, the cut off from fear and despair is precise and deliberate. Satan has had his day. The enemy has been faced head on. The strife is over. The battle is won. We have meaning. We have purpose. We have life.

"Don't be afraid." Next time you feel afraid, remember these words to you from the risen Lord Jesus. He will guide and, when necessary, carry you through all the challenges you face. You have faced serious challenges this last year as a congregation. I have been privileged to watch you face them head on and keep focused on your mission to "Spread the Good News, Serve those in need, and Share the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world". I will be in prayer for you as you, hopefully soon, welcome a new pastor and continue in your life of service beyond fear in the risen Lord Jesus. He is risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You, Pastor Carl

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee met and interviewed two (2) candidates, for a second time, on March 19th and 21st. The Committee will be meeting again after Easter for debriefing and discernment.

Please note the following process for hiring a new pastor:

Based on our Lutheran theology, a pastor is ***called***. The call process is not simply hiring a new employee for the church as would be done in a secular workplace. Office of the Bishop searches for candidates. A slate of candidates is given to the Call Committee for pastorship at St. Luke Lutheran church. Then the process begins.

We ask for your continued support and prayers!

Chet Madison – Chair

Peggy Moser
Faith Thomas
Paul Maki

Phil Karlstad
Rachel Kiser
Brenda Sulzmann



Pastor Carl Hoppman's Retirement Celebration Luncheon



As you may know, Pastor Carl is retiring (again) . We were unable to honor his many years of service at St. Luke's in 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions.

We are planning an event of celebration and will host a special luncheon and program in his honor. We hope that you will be able to attend.



DATE: Sunday, April 28, 2024
PLACE: St. Luke's Lutheran Church – Schultz Hall
TIME: 12:00 NOON – 2:30 PM

A blue Sign-Up Sheet is located in the Narthex.

A special memorable gift will be presented to Pastor Carl. If you would like to donate towards this gift, please direct donations to Karen Linfor by April 21. Place your donation in an envelope marked "gift for Pastor".

Remember to mark your calendar for this much deserved occasion to honor our wonderful Pastor.

Thank you for your support. May God Bless you and our Pastor Carl.

-Karen Linfor, Committee Co-Chair

-Sarah Madison, Committee Co-Chair





GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS: March was a very busy month for St. Luke's. We began on March 6, with the fourth of our Lenten Soup Suppers and service. Then on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, a wonderful Corn Beef and Cabbage fundraising luncheon was held to support upcoming activities planned for the 100th Church Anniversary. On Saturday, March 23, an awesome crew of volunteers came together to do Spring cleaning of the Sanctuary. A big "Thank You" to all of those who lended a hand, the many hands made for light work. Elements used at the Altar were cleaned and polished, the pews were dusted and polished, pew offering envelopes were refilled and vacuuming was done where needed. The Property Board also had an awesome crew of volunteers to spruce up the campus as well as myriad other chores around the church. When all of the cleaning was done, both groups joined forces to decorate both the exterior and interior of the church with palms in celebration of Palm Sunday the following day. The huge Palm Arch at the beginner of the center row of the Sanctuary is always impressive. A big "Thank You" to Bruce and Karen Kiser for always finding those large palm branches; and to Peggy Moser and Faith Thomas for scouting out the neighborhood for the palm fans and bringing them to church! There are so many to thank for all of the hard work that went into beautifying the Sanctuary. Thank you, also, to the Soul Sisters who took down and disposed of the palms on Easter Monday.

Volunteers also stepped up to help with striping the Altar during the Maundy Thursday service, readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, ushers and greeters for that service.

Let me also thank a couple of others who work "behind the scenes: Bob Behr, who brings out and places the two large candelabras on the Altar and changes the Eternal candle every Sunday; and Jeff Kiser who refills all of the Altar candles with oil after each service and operates the sound system when needed.

There's always a need for volunteers to assist with the many tasks required every Sunday. Opportunities to help are plentiful, and volunteers are always welcomed. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please help! We need you!!

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Andrews, Chair



Corned Beef & Cabbage Fundraiser Lunch

What a wonderful way to start our efforts to make St. Luke's 100-year anniversary everything we so want it to be by raising money to fund the 100th Anniversary Projects. The event brought in just over \$2,100 after expenses. However, it is not all about the money; it also provided a very special time of Christian fellowship for all those in attendance.

The delicious meal was lovingly prepared by many; however, we want to thank Jennifer Connell and Kirsten Ireton for all their hard work chairing this part of the event. Jennifer's family was there to help, including granddaughter Kinsley, training her early – hope to have more children helping at future events!

We also thank those that bought tickets, set up/decorated, donated door prizes, served and cleaned up especially the ever-faithful guys that are always helping in any way they can: Phillip Connell, Bruce Kiser, Michel Duffek and Gaylan Everett. And a special thank you to Karen Kiser and Brenda Sulzmann for the wonderful raffle – such fun and appreciated by all those that won.



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 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.**



Bible Study

Please join us for a 13 Week Bible Study on 1st Corinthians starting April 23, 2024, at 10:00 AM, on Zoom.

Dates: Starts on April 23, 2024 – July 30, 2024 (two week off – July 9 & 16, 2024)

Topic: The Book of 1st Corinthians

Study Guide: N.T. Wright "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" on "1st Corinthians" (Guides can be found on Amazon, Christianbook.com, & thrift-books.com) Study guides are participants 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, and Romans. We are now going to start a new Bible Study on the book of 1st Corinthians. Please join for this exciting book in the Bible as Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth.

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.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED!



This month, our Community Concerns Board would like to share a summary of all the generosity our Congregation has spread, through our Board sponsored opportunities, to many individuals in need over the past quarter and the later part of last year. We really have done so much in such a short amount time.

In December 2023, our Congregation donated numerous games, toys, blankets and more to Children supported by the Stanford Sierra Youth and Families. Our generous gifts along with gifts from other organizations and individuals helped at least 6,000 plus at-risk youth and families have a Christmas that every Child should have. Please read the attached 'Thank You' letter we received from Stanford Sierra Youth and Families.

In January 2024, our Congregation in partnership with our W-ELCA group, a total of 268 items (socks, hats, scarves, gloves, slippers and more to be donated and given to the Un-Housed. Wow!! These items were dropped off at Mercy Peddlers and Loaves & Fishes early February. Think of all those individuals outside in the rain and cold who were given warm and dry socks hats and gloves etc. that they really needed.

On March 2, 2024, our Congregation partnered with Pastor Carter's Tabernacle of Prayer & Praise Congregation to host at Feed & Clothe the Un-Housed at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Between our 2 Congregations, we collected numerous coats, sweaters, clothes, socks, shoes, scarves, hats, gloves and blankets/bedrolls set out on tables under pop-ups to protect from any rain which thankfully held out until after the event. There also was hot soup, chili and water to share with those un-housed who stopped by. Unfortunately, we only had 2 to 3 people drop by. But we did meet the goal of feeding and clothing those without a home by taking it all to them. Sometimes goals are accomplished but not exactly in the way we planned them and that is OK. Next year, we hope to do a similar event but make it even better by bringing the un-housed to us by implementing a few tweaks we can make based on our learnings from this experience.

From November 2023 to March 2024 (5 months), our Board sponsored a dinner served to individuals staying at the Elk Grove Winter Sanctuary. The second Sunday of each of these months, we prepared a hot meal. The individuals we fed could not wait for us to come back. Our meat loaf, chili, potato dishes, salads and desserts were a huge hit. Also, they really enjoyed the conversations with us while serving them. We are pleased to share that up to 35 individuals were helped at this year's Winter Sanctuary. And, we know of at least 4 to 5 individuals were able to secure permanent housing and a few others now have jobs. This was truly a rewarding experience to be a part of even if it was only serving a hot meal each month.

On behalf of the Community Concerns Board, Thank you so much for your giving generosity. We will have more opportunities as this year progresses.

Kathleen Arndt, Chair, Community Concerns Board



Stanford Sierra
Youth & Families

January 12, 2024

Triss and Carl Hoppman
St. Luke Lutheran Church
8953 Royal Gate Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624-3057



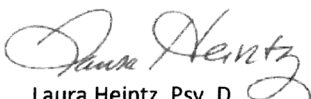
Dear Triss and Carl,

Thank you to St. Luke Lutheran Church for your gift of holiday gifts which included board games, dolls, stuffed animals, blankets, puzzles, jackets, and art supplies on 12/11/2023. We truly appreciate your generosity and kindness in helping us bring joy to the youth and families we serve this holiday season! Your contribution plays a crucial role in making a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most in our local communities.

Last year we served over 6,000 at-risk youth and families in the greater Sacramento region and this year we expect to serve even more. Your help will continue to play a vital role in bringing our mission to life. Together we can transform lives by nurturing permanent connections and empowering families to solve challenges together, so every child can thrive.

Thank you for bringing us one step closer to a community with safe, lifelong connections for all young people, built and strengthened through generations of empowered families.

Gratefully,


Laura Heintz, Psy. D.
Chief Executive Officer


Christie Shorrock
Director of Development

*Stanford Sierra Youth & Families is a merger between Stanford Youth Solutions and Sierra Forever Families
No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.
Tax ID#: 68-0065690*

Administrative Office: 8912 Volunteer Ln, Sacramento, CA 95826 • 916.344.0199 TDD 711 • ssyaf.org
Office Locations: Citrus Heights, Grass Valley, Napa, Placerville, Roseville, Sacramento, Woodland



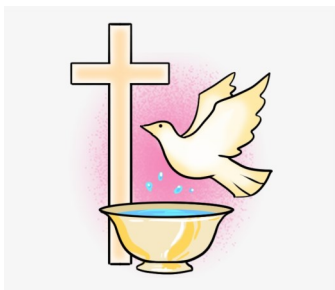
Tony Neidich	April 01
Larry Dockter	April 06
Jane Fanucci	April 12
Clarence Korhonen	April 12
Matthew Spear	April 16
Charles Yakabe	April 16
Megan Gadreault	April 17
Heidi Harrison	April 17
Leah Torres	April 18
Benjamin Quintero	April 24
Connie Reule	April 24
Rylee Shower	April 25
Lisa Englund	April 27
Rachel Kiser	April 30



April 7th	<i>Peggy Moser - To the glory of God</i>
April 14th	<i>available</i>
April 21st	<i>available</i>
April 28th	<i>Pastor Carl + Triss - Thanks!</i>



Pastor Carl is scheduling baptisms at Worship for ***Sunday, April 14.***



If you would like to schedule a baptism on that date, please let him know.

April 2024

Refreshments Provided by:

April 7th: Justin & Laura Tice

April 14th: Lois Sherrets & Kelly Boyer

April 21: Triss & Holly Hoppman

April 28th: Mack & Carole Vance



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (CORRECTED)

February 2024

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$12,769	\$27,818
Compared to Budget	-\$2,531	-\$2,782
	-16.5%	-9.1%
No. of Contributors	58	55 aver.

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

Comments:

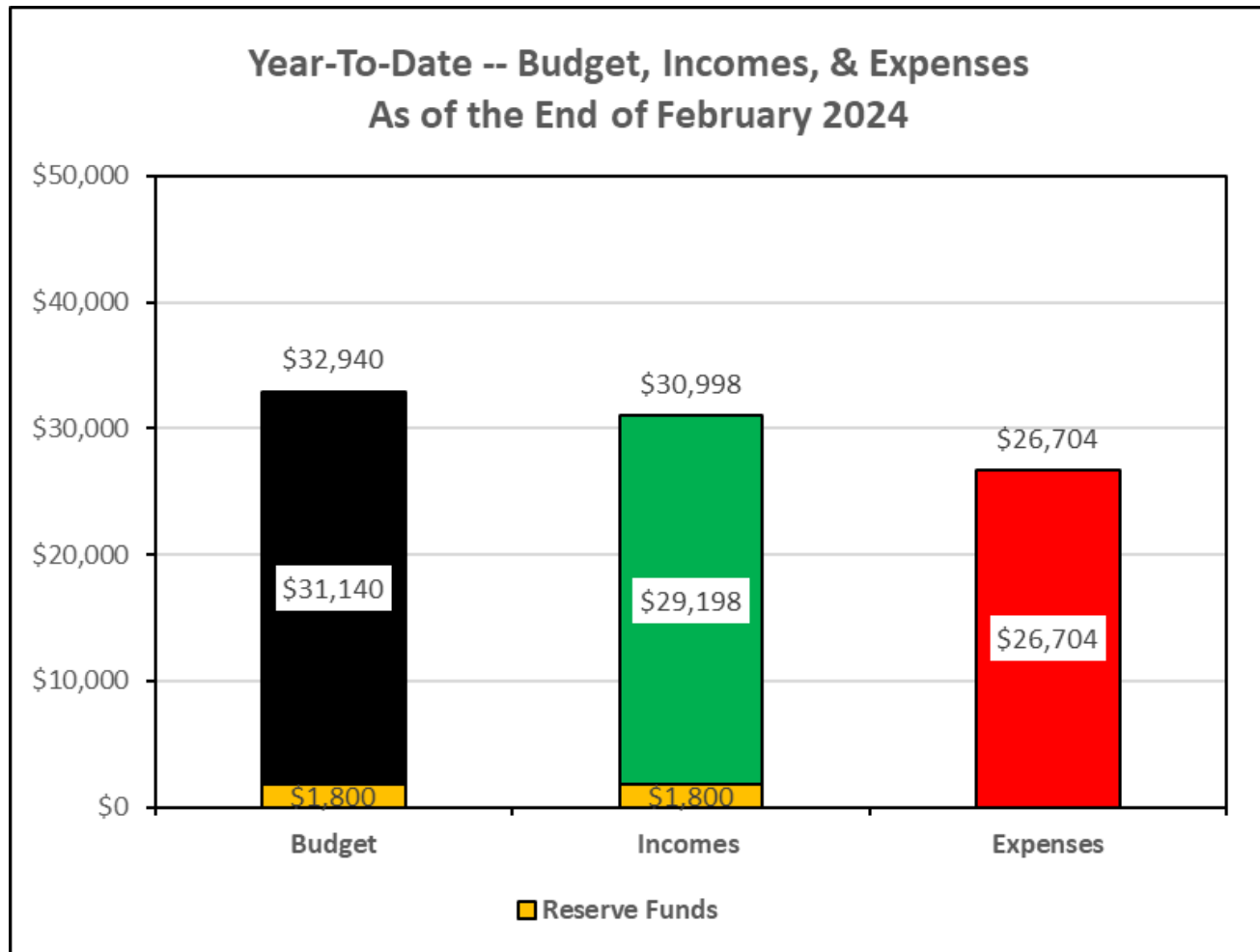
- a. After an "on budget" beginning in January, the offerings were significantly under Budget in February.
- b. At the end of February, the offering income total was about nine percent behind the adopted Budget.

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 February 2024. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve supplement (\$29,198) exceed the Expenses (\$26,704) by about \$2,500. Also, the difference between Budget (\$32,940) and Expenses (\$26,704) is primarily due to not having a full-time pastor. As previously presented, 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)

It's crazy how the presence of God can completely change your mood and attitude in an instant. One worship song, one whispered prayer, one scripture verse can take you from the absolute worst mindset to a place of such peace and joy. There's nothing like the presence of God. 🥰

**In Memory of Rob Cantrell,
Late Son of
Lori Deckert, Rob was
confirmed at St. Luke's.**



Thank you to everyone that came out and helped clean and beautify St. Luke Church and get it ready for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Thank you Phillip & Daniel Connell for cleaning off all the debris from the church roof. And thank you, Kelly Boyer, for taking all the great pictures.



Peggy Moser cleaning and polishing brass.



Gaylen Everett & Tony Neidich working outside.



Bruce Kiser and Jim Sulzmann hanging up the palm branches for Palm Sunday.



Ben Briel preparing the palms for Palm Sunday.



Brenda Sulzmann working in the Roses



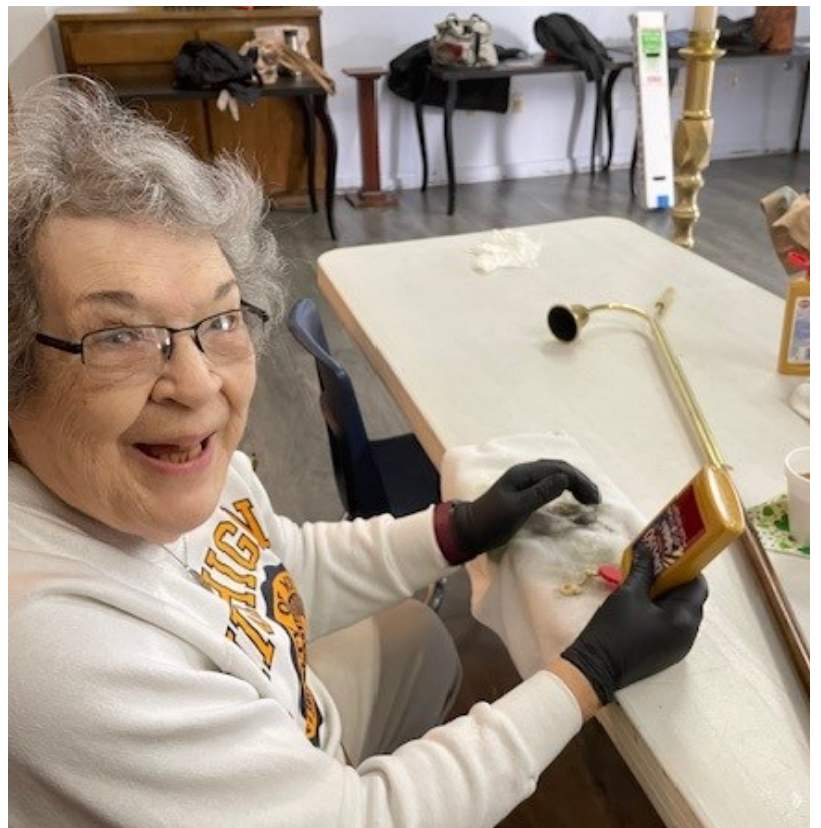
Rosie Brown cleaning and polishing the pews.



Shirley Prouty polishing the altar railings .



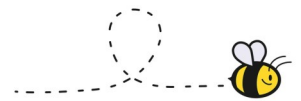
Carolyn Andrews & Sarah Madison
cleaning brass.



Gail Weber polishing brass.



April



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, April 7th

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Andrew Weber	Reader
Faith Harper	Prayer Leader
Shirley Prouty	Communion Servers
Andrew Weber	
Karen Linfor	

Sunday, April 14th

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Gail Weber	Reader
Kirsten Ireton	Prayer Leader
Gail Weber	Communion Servers
Andrew Weber	
Rosabella Lydia	

Sunday, April 21st

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Christiana Wilson	Reader
Punky Dias	Prayer Leader
Gail Weber	Communion Servers
Andrew Weber	
Karen Linfor	

Sunday, April 28th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Bob Behr	Reader
Phil Karlstad	Prayer Leader
Shirley Prouty	Communion Servers
Rosabella Lydia	
Laura Tice	