



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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News & Views



Pastoral Perspective

Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” – Matthew 22:21

Grace and peace to you all! I hope that this finds you well and in the festive spirit!

This year is a special year in our country’s history, and it is appropriate that we celebrate this momentous anniversary. 250 years have passed since the founders set down the words to which we aspire: that “all [people] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Recognizing these rights is noble and necessary for the proper dispensation of equity and justice and is essential for living a righteous life. We hear the call for equality in Paul’s letter to the Galatians: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

That we have not always – and indeed, rarely – lived up to the ideals upon which our nation was founded cannot be disputed through any logical argument. From our country’s inception, there were persons within these very shores who were seen as lesser and denied these unalienable rights: native peoples who were systematically pushed out and killed so those who immigrated here from Europe could have their lands; enslaved peoples brought to this continent to live out their days not as persons, but as property; and women who were prevented from living with the same rights and opportunities as men. None of these groups were afforded the rights presented in the Declaration of Independence; it would take years, effort, and too often the shedding of blood for any of these groups to be recognized as fully human with capabilities and aspirations of their own.

This work is not done; it is still in progress even now, and it is work that calls to us as Christians. We are called by Christ not to give all things to Caesar – that is, not to give all things to the state – but to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s. In many ways our nation deserves praise – the strides we have made in governance of the people, by the people, for the people; the advances in civil rights through the ages; the scientific breakthroughs that we have produced – but to offer nothing but praise for a nation gives *everything* to Caesar, not just what is Caesar’s. To do so is not patriotic, but nationalistic. It views the nation-state as without blemish, ascribing to it what should only be ascribed to God.

Continues.....

To be truly patriotic, one must offer the praise that is due, but also offer the criticism that is warranted. A true patriot does not see the country as perfect, but instead *seeks its perfection*. A true patriot views the current actions and weighs them against the ideals of the nation, especially when the nation's actions seek to undo its own progress. A true patriot seeks redress for the wounded and strives to move the nation forward to greater heights, never backward to a time when our nation was less true to its ideals than is now.

For the Christian patriot, we are called to this work – speaking truth to power and seeking equity in our nation – by the scriptures itself. The demands of righteousness are placed upon us to offer to God the things that are God's: our truest allegiance and moral integrity. We are called to speak out when our nation acts against those we are called to serve: the poor; the sick; the widow, orphan, and immigrant stranger. To do so is not un-American; *it is patriotic in the truest sense, wanting our country to be better and act with the ideals we claim to hold*. To do so is to follow the will of God as spoken by the prophet Micah, for “what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

As we approach this historic anniversary, I offering blessings: God bless the United States of America, the world, and you all, so that we may strive toward equity, justice, and peace for all people. Amen.

- Pastor Rob



BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians

You are cordially invited to participate in a Bible study on the Book of Ephesians, commencing August 4th, 2026, via Zoom. The group will convene for eleven (11) weeks, with a one-week break in September. The discussion will utilize N.T. Wright's "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" focusing on "Ephesians." If you wish to join and have not attended previously, please email marlenek8626@outlook.com so that you may be added to the class mailing list and receive the weekly Zoom link starting in August 2026.

Marlene Kiser
Bible Study Leader

Message from Council President Chet Madison

As we enter the halfway point of 2026, lots of activities have taken place at St. Luke Lutheran Church. We concluded the sale of 1.25 acre-lot with escrow closing in late May 2026. Your Finance Chair and team are working on a plan to properly invest proceeds from the sale to ensure St Luke Lutheran Church solvency to continue to be the best ELCA Lutheran Church serving South Region of Sacramento.

I would like to take a moment to thank all our Council members for the dedicated work week after week making certain our church is operating smoothly and doing God's work. I want to commend our Council Members that took on new positions: JoAnn Sulli-Treasurer, Marilyn Ferris-Steed-Secretary, Laura Tice-Evangelism, Triss Hoppman-Community Concerns, and Kirsten Ireton-Financial Secretary. We are still in need of a "Education/Youth Board" chairperson to help revitalize St. Luke Lutheran Church youth programs. Who, in our lovely congregation, is willingly to step up and fill this position and do God's work? Connect with Pastor Rob, or me if you are interested or have questions.

Lots of activities at St Luke Church going into the summer months. Our 27th Annual Fireworks Sale will start on June 28th. Help is always welcome. See your Sunday church bulletin for all details about various on-going activities.

I wish you and your families a very safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

With many Blessings,
Chet Madison

We had an amazing mega Bunco evening, June 6.

We served 76 meals thanks to Mike and Linda Duffek. Michael prepared The pasta for us before they went on their European vacation. We also had a wonderful raffle. Thank you everybody who bought a ticket, donated raffle prize, painted signs, made posters or just encouraged us. This is one of the largest Fundraiser that WELCA Puts on each year this year thanks to everybody we brought in over \$2700. THANK YOU.





CELEBRATE **250 YEARS OF** **AMERICAN** **INDEPENDENCE**

AT ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA

Games

10am-2pm

Prizes

OR

**Cupcake
Walk**

Bake Sale

**50 States
Trivia**



Music

Crafts

**Free
Popcorn
and Snow
Cones**

TNT Fireworks available for purchase





St. Luke's

27th Annual Fireworks Sale

Going on now through July 4th

Reminder time - the St. Luke's 27th Annual Fireworks Sale is upon us now. And we need your help. Please consider the following ways you can help us out this year:

- Let family and friends know about our booth and its location and ask them to support the church in its mission to "...spread the Good News, serve those in need, and share the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world."
- Volunteer to work in the booth. Convenient and right here at the church - what could be easier!
- Bring some snacks or drinks to share with the volunteers at the booth. Yum, Yum, Goodies!
- Purchase your fireworks this year at our booth. Help celebrate the 250th Birthday of the USA! All proceeds benefit the many property improvement projects going on now at the church.

Just come over and visit. The more people around the booth, the more attractive the booth looks to others who will then check us out!

Remember, we are located on Center Parkway near the corner at Tangerine. Convenience! If you have any questions about the fireworks sale or the booth or how you can help as a volunteer or a provider of yummy snacks, just call Larry Dockter at (916) 793-4163. Hope to see you there!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter

Fireworks Committee Chairman

JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday July 5

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Linda Duffek & Christiana Wilson	Ushers
Daniel & Shirley	Acolytes
Kelly Boyer	Reader
Peggy Moser	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor	Communion Servers
Kirsten Ireton	
Connie Reule	

Sunday July 12

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care
Daniel Laryea & Victor Sulli	Ushers
Peggy & Kelly	Acolytes
Phil Karlstad	Reader
Marilyn Steed	Prayer Leader
Shirely Prouty	Communion Servers
Laura Tice	

Sunday July 19

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Kelly Boyer & Brenda Sulzmann	Ushers
Connie & Laura Tice	Acolytes
Faith Thomas	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Bob Behr	Communion Servers
Scott Kelly	

Sunday July 26

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Laura Sandrini & Phil Karlstad	Ushers
Peggy & Laura Sondrini	Acolytes
Bob Behr	Reader
Shirley Prouty	Prayer Leader
Peggy Moser	Communion Servers
Linda Duffek	



"I Am Worthy"



SPS WELCA - WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPT. 11-13, 2026

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER
DANVILLE, CA

GUEST SPEAKERS/LEADERS

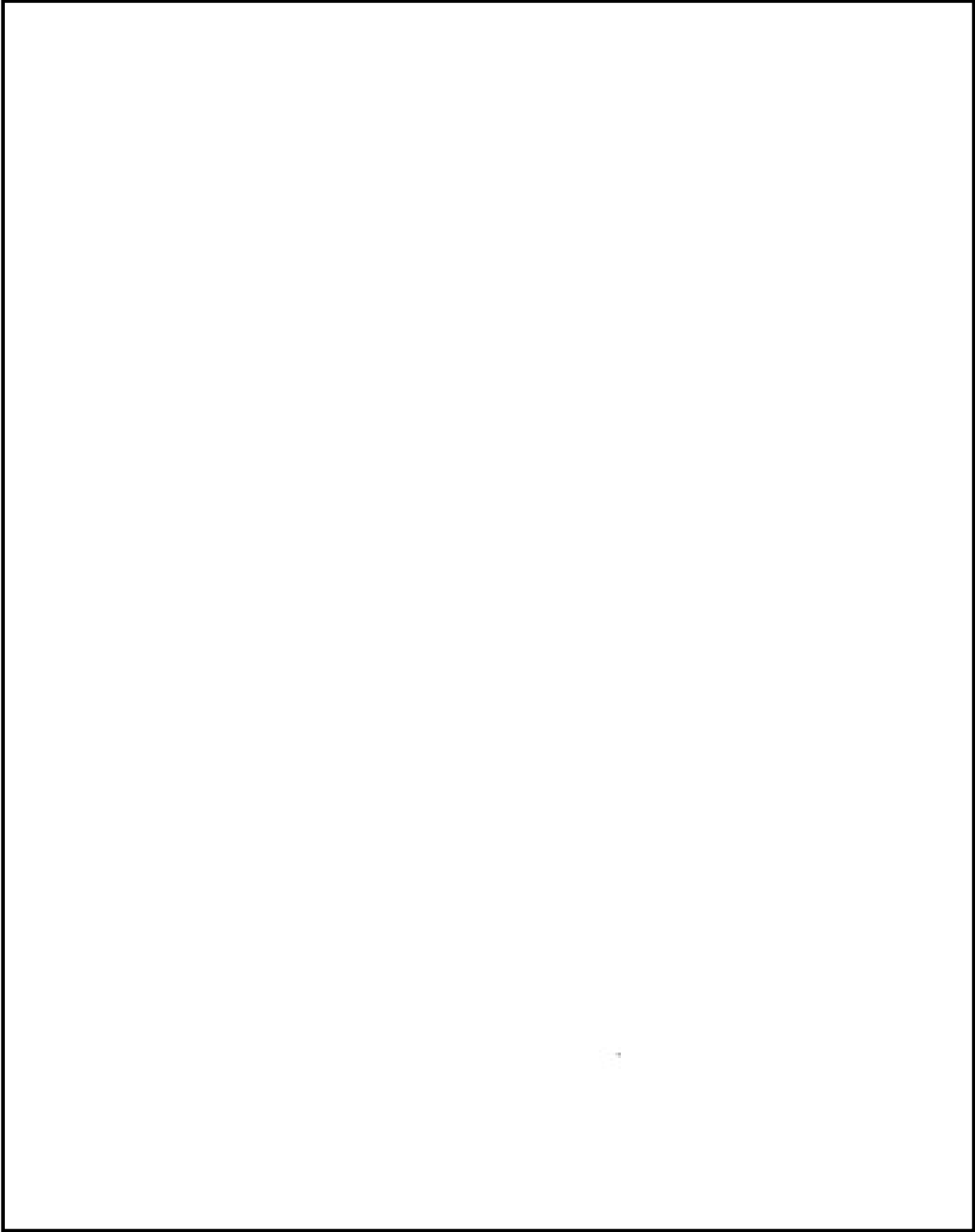
REV. SARA WILSON

REV. SARAH STREET

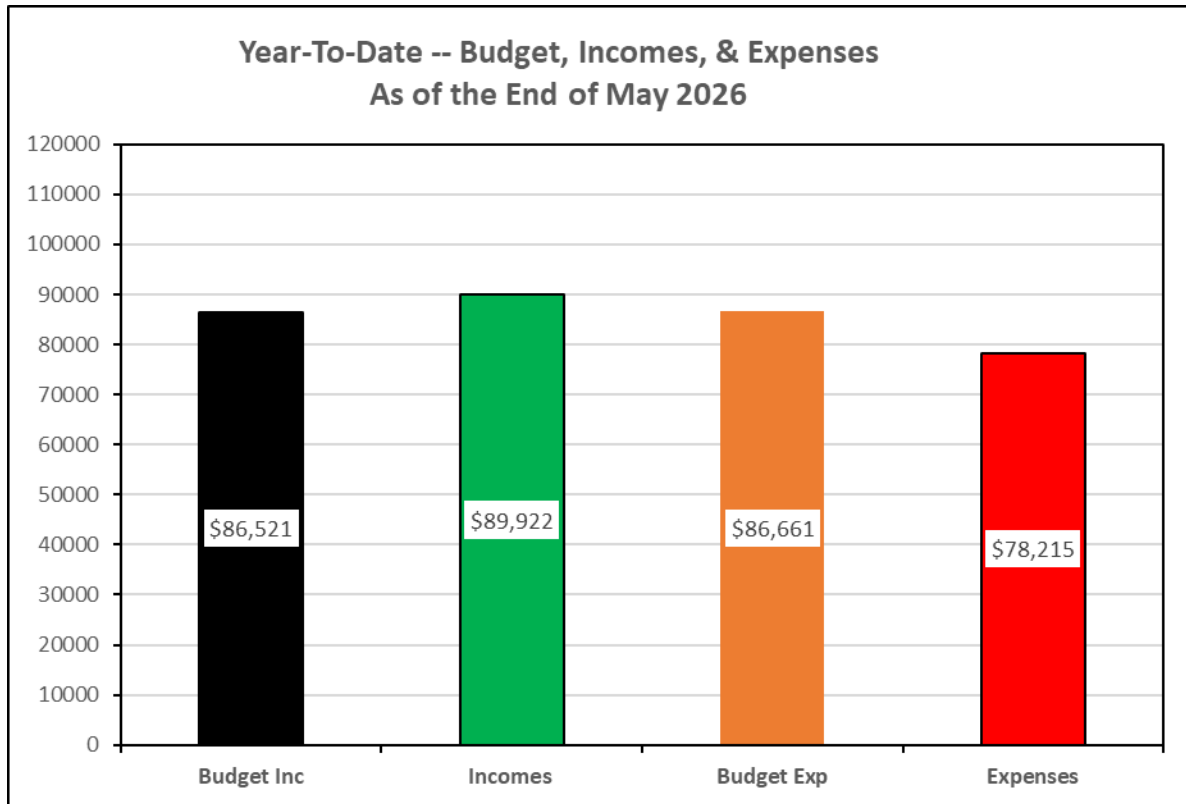
REGINA BANKS, JD

AND

REV. KATY GRINDBERG,
SUNDAY WORSHIP PRESIDER



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 May 2026. As shown, the year-to-date Incomes (\$89,922, which includes all donations, facility use, etc.) exceed the Budget Income (\$86,521) by about \$3,400. The year-to-date Expenses (\$78,215) are below the Budget Expenses (\$86,661) by approximately \$8,445. Partial “savings” to Expenses are due to no charges to Computer/Software Support, lower natural gas and electricity use, lower facility maintenance, and the “unfilled” maintenance worker position. 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

Summer Birthdays



Karen Cagle	June 01
Pastor Rob Wiliamson	June 02
Phillip Petersen	June 03
Phillip Connell	June 03
Rose Vang	June 04
Luis Quintero	June 05
Laura Sondrini	June 07
Jacob Wilson	June 08
John Rowland	June 10
Michael Duffek	June 11
Peggy Moser	June 15
Jacquell Wilson	June 15
Cindy Schneider	June 15
Shirley Prouty	June 21
Ricky Dias	June 23



Keith Spear	July 01
Mark Zemke	July 03
Bruce Kiser	July 05
Bekka Roberts	July 07
Rosie Johnson	July 08
Juliette Rowland	July 14
Steven Lee	July 17
Pat Webb	July 27
Lily Neidich	July 20
Maria Torres	July 23
Leo Diaz	July 21
Nolan Jaeger	July 30



We are offering Sunday School this summer on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. It will be themed as an Art Camp with Christian/Church crafts. All are welcome.



July 5: Carole & Mack Vance
 July 12: Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett
 July 19: Kirsten Ireton
 July 26: Triss & Holly Hoppman



WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL DAY

Sign up to provide flowers for our worship services. There is a sign up chart available on the wall in the narthex if you would like to bring an arrangement of flowers for worship. Place them on the stand by the lectern before worship and then take them with you after worship. Thanks!

Lois Sherrets	August 01
Lydia Toloy	August 03
Alexander Iniguez	August 07
Kennard Ferguson	August 07
Irene Boschee	August 08
Izaiah Vang	August 08
Linda Duffek	August 10
Randy Vance	August 10
David Torres	August 10
Jailia Vang	August 13
Vicki Esparza	August 13
Isabella Basquez	August 13
Kathleen Arndt	August 16
Amber Mansfield	August 16
Kay Yakabe	August 16
Kristen Encinas	August 18
George Zipay	August 18
Craig Richey	August 20
Arthur Blazic	August 20
Aiyana Tice	August 22
Mack Vance	August 23
Shirley Zipay	August 23
Carolyn Andrews	August 27
Iris Schiffer	August 27
Jon Linfor	August 29
Liam Gadreault	August 31
Faith Thomas	August 31