

St. Luke Lutheran Church (916) 421-5039 www.slelca.org office@slelca.org

News and Views



Pastoral Perspective

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal, For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:20-21

When I was a kid I had a youth director who told me many times that I needed to give my heart to Jesus. I didn't understand at the time what he was talking about. Through the years, I have gained a deep understanding of what he meant.

Sometimes your life in the world might be going great. Psychologically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually you are in good shape. That can change very quickly. I have suffered most of my life from depression. It doesn't matter how well things are going in my life when I have a depressive episode. Everything seems dark. It's as though the light has been stolen from my life. What can I do in this and other situations where there is a challenge with psychological, emotional, spiritual, or financial stability?

What I have learned I can do is to give my heart to Jesus. The heart, in scripture, is the center of one's being, involving emotions, reason, and will. If the center of my life depends on how it's going with me at the time, when things don't go well, I can be robbed of joy and everything can be very dark. If the center of my life is Jesus, by faith, I can trust he is with me in the darkness and will be my light.

I have done several funerals through the years for people who have committed suicide. I have always included in their service Psalm 139:11-12: "If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you." We need to hear that and take it to heart! How I wish those who consider committing suicide could hear it and realize, in their hearts, that Jesus, the light, "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5. Committing suicide is not the way to deal with the darkness. I still grieve over one of Holly's friends, a vibrant and delightful person, who committed suicide. It seemed to her the best way to go in the midst of her challenges.

The truth is, Jesus is with us in the midst of any challenge; psychological, emotional, spiritual, or financial. That is why I now understand that I need to give my heart to Jesus—again and again and again. If I truly treasure my relationship with Jesus above all else, my heart will be safe with him. If I treasure psychological, emotional, spiritual, or financial stability above all else, a challenge to any of those things can do me in.

God bless us as we wait for a new pastor for St. Luke's. God bless us with the realization that Jesus is with us in the midst of this current challenge and any challenges to come. Trust that he will never leave us or forsake us but will guide us through according to his will and way. Give your heart to Jesus. He is your light!

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl

Message from Council President Chet Madison

We have passed our first half of 2023, with serving the Lord in many different ways. I would like to thank all of our hard working committee members that put in many hours maintaining St. Luke Church in many ways.... Finance Committee: Making sure St. Luke Church is fiscally sound to do the Lord's work to serve the community. Property Board: Maintaining our church campus in every aspect. They have secured a Safety & Security grant for \$30,000.00 to extend our fencing. More information will be forth coming. Community Concerns: Linda Duffek and Cathy Davis have been working very hard to improve St. Luke Church excess room capacity. Evangelism: Tireless workers serving and preparing for our various events. WELCA, Worship & Music and many others contribute to St. Luke Church success.

Fire Works 2023: Many thanks to Larry Dockter for his hard work in changing locations to our church grounds and organizing this important yearly fundraiser. To all the participants, thank you so much.

I am delighted to inform you that Triss Hoppman has volunteered to head up our 100th Church Anniversary that will take place in 2025. Planning must start this year and continue through 2024.

A signup sheet will be placed in the church narthex for those who are interested in being part of the committee.

Yours Gratefully in Christ, Chet Madison



Church Roster Update

Thank you for the many responses to my request for current addresses and phone numbers. The Fall 2023 St. Luke's Roster of Members and Friends is well under way. I will put together the information I have received and have a draft copy of the revised roster available in the narthex at church from August 6 through August 20. Please stop by on Sunday morning or during the week to check your listing for accuracy (I have been dealing with a lot of names and numbers). Alison will then print the roster. It will be available starting August 27. We won't email it because that is too much personal information to be sent over cyberspace.

If you can't get to church to check your listing or to get a copy of the completed roster, please contact me and I will check with you to make sure your information is correct and that you get the finalized roster. The roster will, of course, need constant revision. After August, please contact the office as you have changes in your family information. Thank you!

Pastor Carl

Worship Attendance

Beginning this month we will be reporting worship attendance. This is a bit tricky with an in-person congregation and online viewers. We have chosen to report how many folks worshipped in person and how many online views were listed on YouTube. It's not a perfect count, but it gives us a good idea of our overall worship attendance. For example, on July 9, when Pastor Carl held Dean Olsen during the whole sermon, we had 73 views listed on YouTube. We don't know how many of those were folks who had worshipped in the morning and then viewed the video later, but we don't want to ignore such an exciting number of viewers. By the way, if you would like to bring a young child or baby for Pastor Carl to hold during the sermon, that would evidently really boost our online viewership! Overall, we are doing better than we might think as a worshipping congregation if we only considered those who worship in-person.

In person attendance

July 2nd - 59 July 2nd - 18 July 9th - 76 July 9th - 73 July 16th - 49 July 16th - 32 July 23rd - 60 July 23rd - 18 July 30th - 56 July 30th - 23



Pastor Carl holding Dean Olsen during Sunday worship.

YouTube views



Worship and Music

DO YOU REMEMBER?? When the Covid pandemic hit the world, Pastor Carl was determined to somehow keep the ministry of St. Luke Lutheran Church alive and available to its members. In addition to his weekly "drive thru" prayers with us, he and Holly looked into video recording services and obtained the necessary equipment to film services each week and put them online. Parts of the service were recorded during the week. The choir, led by Jane Fanucci, would get together every Friday on the patio to record music for the service – even if the weather was cold and rainy. Then, every Sunday, we could "go to church" via the magic of video equipment and technology that I will never understand. Several months before Pastor Carl retired, he put out an "in search of" plea for someone to learn the operation of the video equipment, including how to put it online. The person who stepped up to this monumental task was Marlene Kiser!! When Pastor Bill became our interim pastor, Marlene worked tirelessly with him to ensure our services were filmed and available online and on You Tube. Again, when Pastor Brian arrived, she taught him how to operate our system. Any time Marlene runs into a problem, she has instant help from her son, Jeff, who has a wealth of technology expertise. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Marlene for her work to record the services and keep them online for those members who are unable to attend church in person each week. Also, thank you, Jeff, for always being available to trouble shoot and brainstorm any problems that come up.

In Christ's Love, Shirley Prouty, Chair, Worship & Music Board



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

In June 2025 St. Luke will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary! Your help will make this the best event ever. We will need people to research the history of the congregation, reach out to the community, advertise activities, plan events and more.

If you would like to serve on the planning committee for the celebration, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Also include your e-mail address if you have one and cell phone number for texts. The first meeting will be held sometime in September once we determine the most convenient time for everyone.

From "Whether" to "Where"

Paul Maki, chair of the Finance Board, asked me to help St. Luke's consider stewardship year-round. I believe the best way to do that is to share our stewardship stories to encourage one another in our discipleship. If you would be willing to share yours, please contact Paul. It really does make a difference. Here's mine in a nutshell.

For years, I worried about whether I could afford to give a decent size proportional gift for God's work in the world. I would give somewhat regularly, but it was when and in the amount I felt at the time I could afford. This practice continued into my early ministry. In conversation with a stewardship specialist, it became clear to me that I had been asking the wrong question all those years. Instead of questioning whether I could afford to give a decent size proportional gift for God's work in the world, it would be wiser for me to question whether I could afford to not give in that way. Throughout the Bible, from Old Testament times on, first-fruits proportional financial stewardship has been shown to be an integral part of discipleship. So, along with Triss, we committed ourselves to regular first-fruits proportional giving. We decided on 10% of our net income. We have never regretted that commitment or felt we really couldn't afford it. Our whole attitude toward money management has shifted. We realize everything we have is God's so the only question, really, is how we will manage what is God's.

We then made a very important shift in our thinking. Instead of being concerned about "whether" we could give, we allowed our concern to be focused on "where" we were being called to give. We have given to Food Closets, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lutheran Social Services, our current congregations, and other ministries. In the foreseeable future, we will be giving our tithe to St. Luke's to help in congregational mission, especially funding a new pastor to lead St. Luke's.

I hope and pray this sharing is encouraging to you as you consider your financial stewardship.

Pastor Carl

Wednesday Evening Potlucks and Lutheran Study Wide Open!



The Wednesday evening potlucks and Lutheran study are wide open for you to participate. There is plenty of great food provided and enough study material for all. Join us when you can. Potluck starts at 6pm and the study starts around 6:30pm. It's a great summer event. Upcoming sessions include:

August 9—How to Receive Communion
August 16—The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did
August 23—How to Read the Bible
August 30—How to Share Your Faith with Someone

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT June 2023

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$11,720	\$84,806
Compared to Budget	-\$1,617	\$4,781
	-12.1%	6.0%
No. of Contributions	53	54 average

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

Other Contributions:

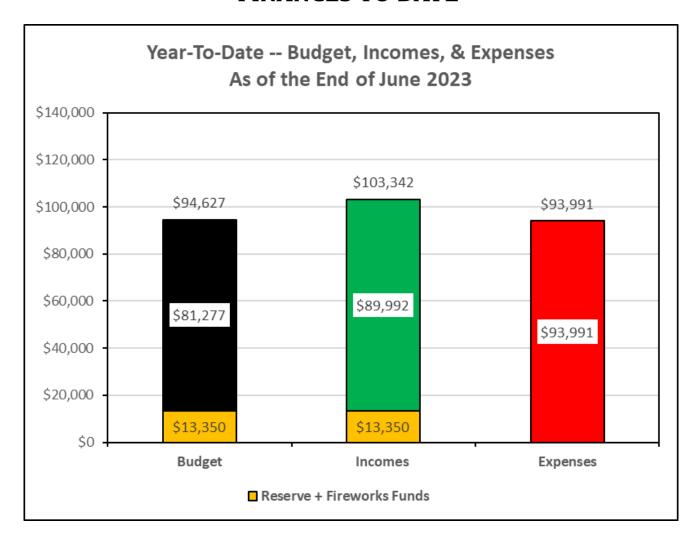
- A. Fireworks \$100 (donation)
- B. special gift \$43 (computer-related)
- C. Youth Fund \$20 (recycling)

Comments:

- A. The month of June again shows the typical drop-off in contributions as the summer holidays begin. However, the expenses continue.
- B. During July, mid-year statements will be distributed to all contributors who have contributed in 2023.
- C. **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 St. Luke's Financial Secretary 916-714-3626 LRFenske@comcast.net

FINANCES TO DATE



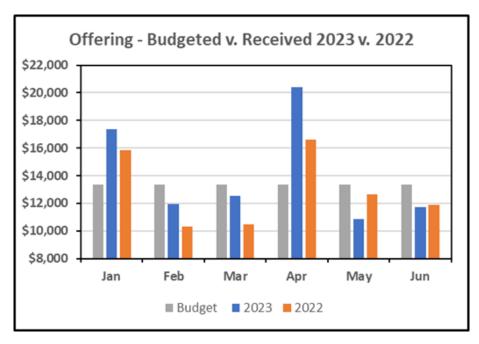
To supplement the Financial Secretary's report on contributions, the Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of June 2023. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$89,992) fall short of the Expenses (\$93,991) which mirrors the shortfall in actual offerings for June as we enter the summer months. Expenses for the year got closer to Budgeted Funds when the supplemental Reserve and Fireworks Funds (\$94,627) are included.

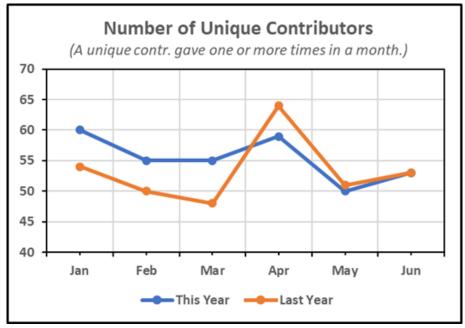
"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)

FINANCE BOARD

Offerings – A Mid-Year Review

In general, the graphs show that the offerings and number of contributors have increased from last year. However, there is much that remains to eliminate the use of Reserve funds to balance the Budget (\$24,000 in 2023). It is noted that each month falls short of the adopted Budget, except the first month of a quarter, as some contributors are giving on a quarterly basis.





UPDATE on \$30,000 GRANT

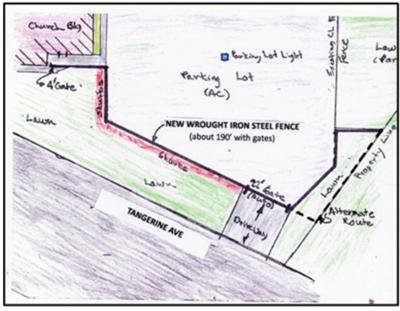
(For Fence at the South End of the Parking Lot)

In April of this year, the Property Board (PB) posted an article in the *News & Views* announcing that St. Luke's received a \$30,000 grant from the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the installation of a fence across the south end of the Parking Lot. That article provided a brief summary of events and discussions leading up to the preparation and submittal of the grant application. The purpose of this article is to provide an update on the grant project and additional details regarding the fence.

The award letter was received on February 8, 2023; however, OES requires the submittal and approval of certain additional documents before proceeding with the actual work. One required document was to verify that the grant recipient is a non-profit organization, and this proved to be a time-consuming effort for St. Luke's. The church was listed by ELCA as "St. Luke's American Lutheran Church of Center Parkway"; whereas the church is incorporated (dated 1926) by the California Secretary of State as the "St. Luke Lutheran Church of Sacramento, California". After numerous phone calls, emails, and correspondence. this issue was finally resolved, and the required documents were submitted to OES in mid-May.

On June 28, St. Luke's received notice that OES approved **all** of the required, additional documents and authorized St. Luke's to proceed with the work. Similarly, at their July meeting, the St. Luke's Council approved proceeding with the fence and the expenditure of the grant funds. The PB will now seek proposals from qualified fence contractors. OES procedures require at least three proposals.

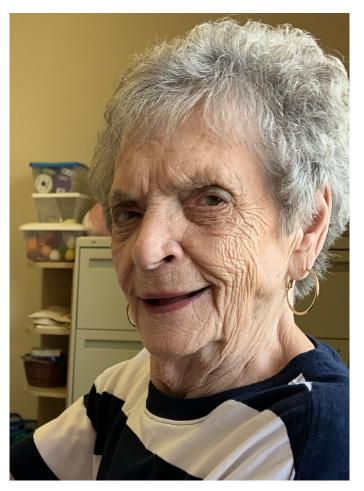
The height, construction, and appearance of the fence will be identical to St. Luke's existing fences. As shown in the sketch below, the fence will be installed along the sidewalk at the southeast corner of the Sanctuary building and adjacent to the east and north sides of the Photinia shrubs at the south end of the Parking Lot. A 22-foot automatic, sliding gate will be installed at the Tangerine entrance. Two alternative routes are proposed for the fence between St. Luke's and the adjacent church to the east, where the new fence will connect to the adjacent church's existing fence. When completed, all exterior doors of St. Luke's facilities will be protected by a six-foot steel fence.



It is planned that the gate will be opened during the day and evenings when the church has ongoing activities. Codes will be available for those that need to enter the facilities after hours. The gate will automatically open (if closed) when leaving the Parking Lot. Capabilities also will be provided for emergencies, no power, and the Fire Department.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fence, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the PB.

Clarence Korhonen, PB Chairperson



Lois Celebrating her 92nd Birthday with the Soul Sisters .

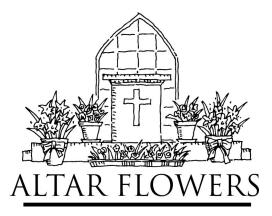






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August 31





WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL DAY

Sign up to provide flowers for our worship services. There is a sign up sheet available on the opportunity table 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!



For those that are interested in helping to provide and serve Sunday Refreshments, we have a sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table.

We also will have Suggestions for those serving Sunday Refreshments.

If we have enough people to sign up, you will only have to serve six times a year.

This is a great opportunity for Fellowship.

In Christ, Carole Vance

SUMMARY OF CARL HOPPMAN'S TALK ABOUT BRAIN HEALTH

by Gabriele Schroeder

I thought you might be interested in an article on a talk I gave on Brain Health. Helping encourage lifestyle modifications that can promote brain health has become a passion. I am happy to share with you more about this important study and what it has done for me so far. I am nine months into my two-year participation in the study.

alzheimer's 95 association

THE STUDY

Carl has volunteered to participate in a major medical study on brain health, conducted by the Alzheimer's Association, in collaboration with 5 health systems in various parts of the US. Carl is but one of 2,000 participants in this study, with 400 of them participating in the UC Davis segment of the study. All participants have been assigned to one of two groups – one that receives 2 years of supervision, testing, and instruction and a control group that receives very limited group instruction about the four areas of the study and about keeping their brain healthy.

Thankfully, Carl was assigned to the first group. Thus far, he has been enrolled in the study for 6 months and has lost about 50 lbs. of weight. He also took up an exercise that he thought he had given up a long time ago due to his age – jogging! On top of that, Carl is required to wear a Fitbit 24:7 that records his vitals and reports them to the researchers. There are many additional tests Carl takes regularly. He himself does not see the results, but the researchers do! They know if he didn't

do his exercises or if he failed to practice his mindfulness exercises before going to bed. In result of the study, Carl has become a transparent man to the researchers!

A NEW CALLING

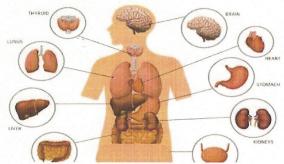
Carl's motivation for participating in this study is interesting, too. He had been looking for an area where he could apply his God-given gifts during his retirement years. Initially, he had hoped to continue preaching and presiding at worship or volunteering in some other way in the community ... but Covid (and everybody going online) put an end to those plans. But then Carl received a card in the mail inviting him to participate in this study. If you recall, on a recent Sunday, I mentioned a Presbyterian pastor by the name of Frederick Buechner who famously defined the place God calls you to as "the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." For Carl, the place to which God appeared to call him was the area of brain wellness. As it so happened, Carl matched all the criteria that the researchers were looking for in participants. They were looking for people like him ... and he had what they needed. Voilà! He had found a new calling.

THE HUMAN BRAIN AS A VITAL ORGAN

Carl shared with us that he now thinks of the brain as a vital organ. As with other organs, the brain's deterioration is not an *inevitable* process. Through proper nutrition, exercise, giving it mental and social stimuli, and improving other health metrics, we can do a lot to keep our most important organ healthy, for many years to come.

BRAIN HEALTH PAGE 1





Think about the way we used to think, a long time ago, about heart health. We used to think that the health of our heart just declines, and that there is nothing we can do about that. Today, we know that we can make lifestyle changes that impact longevity and heart health. Thus far, scientists have not found a way to do brain transplants. In the absence of transplanting brains, there is a lot we can do to improve the health of our most vital organ, the brain.

The study focuses on four distinct areas: nutrition, exercise, mental stimuli, and health metrics. On April 30, Carl shared with us the nutrition plan that he is expected to follow, named "The MIND Diet." Basically, that nutrition plan includes certain foods you MUST east, and certain foods you ought to LIMIT.

Note what the study does not do - it does not recommend a magic bullet, a new medication that will solve all our brain health problems.

There are lots of people out there who try to sell us just that, a magic bullet that - they promise - will reduce the risk of Alzheimer's Disease.

Don't spend your hard-earned money on those.

Rather, try to implement lifestyle changes.

EVERY-DAY BRAIN HEALTH

The Alzheimer's study is demanding. It requires not only the participants full engagement in it, but also the support and encouragement of their loved ones. The household will have to buy different foods, prepare them in a different way, and set aside time for health check-up,

visits to the gym, and meetings with coaches. Without the strict supervision, Carl believes that he might not have followed through with all the requirements. Hence, for people outside this study it is nearly impossible to follow through.

But – do not despair. Brain health is not an allor-nothing game. Every little bit about our lives that we improve will have a positive impact on the flourishing of our brain. If you cannot do the full nutrition plan, do *some*! If you cannot follow the full exercise regiment, do at least *some* exercises that get your heart rate up. If you cannot learn a new language or do 30 minutes of brain exercises per day, do *something* else. But pay attention to the basics ... check your hearing and reach out to people! Do not isolate yourself ... or your brain health *will* suffer.

NUTRITION

Foods to Include

 Green leafy vegetables, such as kale, arugula, spinach, and collard greens (one serving or more each day).



 Fresh vegetables (one serving or more, each day). If fresh vegetables are not available, frozen vegetables are a good choice.

BRAIN HEALTH PAGE 2

3. **Berries**. Eat berries at least five times per week.

- Nuts & seeds. Snack on nuts or add nuts or seeds to your meals at least five days a week.
- 5. Olive oil. Enjoy olive oil daily.



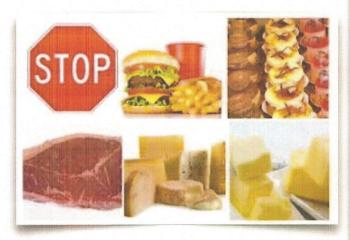
6. Whole grains. Eat at least three servings of whole grains per day.



- 7. **Fish**. Eat fish every week. Choose fatty fish such as salmon, mackerel, herring, and sardines often.
- Poultry. Include lean proteins such as poultry (white meat) at least twice per week.
- Legumes. Include legumes like beans, garbanzo, and lentils at least three times a week.

Foods to Limit or Avoid

 Butter and margarine. Use healthier fats such as olive oil or ghee more often and limit or avoid butter and margarine.



- 2. Cheese. Limit to two slices a week.
- 3. **Fried foods**. Try using an air fryer as a way to enjoy your favorite fried foods.
- 4. Sweets and pastries. Limit eating sweets to a few times a week. If you have a sweet tooth, choose healthier versions of your favorite foods or just eat them less often and in small quantities.
- Red meat. Limit to three servings per week.

EXERCISE

The Goal of exercising is to supply the brain with all the oxygen it needs. As our most important organ, the brain demands to receive about twenty percent of the oxygen that we inhale. If it gets less than that, it will suffer.



BRAIN HEALTH PAGE 3

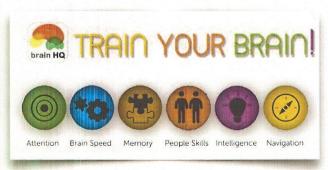
Carl suggested that we focus on aerobic exercise four days per week, with the goal of reaching a certain heart rate target each time (talk to your doctor what your target heart rate should be). In addition, he suggested that we do stretching and strength exercises! Find something that you enjoy doing and that you will do regularly.

MENTAL & SOCIAL STIMULI

It is important that we exercise our brain in other ways, too. Engaging with other people and avoiding being isolated are important to our brain health.



Engaging in mentally demanding exercises that keep changing – such as learning a new language, learning a new skill, reading and discussing books on a variety of topics, using problem-solving phone or tablet apps (such as Brain HQ, Lumosity, etc.), or doing jigsaw puzzles all are serving this purpose.

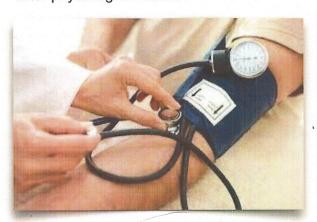


Another important factor for brain health is our ability to hear. When we cannot hear properly, when our hearing aids don't work as they ought

to, we might feel isolated in group settings and be unable to fully engage with other people. Thus, let's get those ears checked regularly!

HEALTH METRICS

The two lists of required food items and food items that we ought to limit, do not mention, for example – salt, sugar, eggs, and a variety of other food. While the nutrition plan considers those items neutral in terms of its point system, salt, sugar, and cholesterol have an impact on our blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and blood sugar levels as well as on a variety of other physiological factors.



The study that Carl is enrolled in also monitors those "health metrics" and their impact on brain health. Carl, therefore, suggests that we pay attention to the amount of salt and the kinds of fats in our food.

QUESTIONS?

If you have more questions, please do not hesitate to approach Carl. He'd be happy to talk to you!



BRAIN HEALTH PAGE 4



Our ongoing school supply drive is in full swing. We are collecting supplies through August. You can place your items in the school supply box located in the narthex.

The following items below are needed to help meet our goal of 140 backpacks this year!

Pencil Pouches Pencils Glue Sticks Child Scissors Crayons Plastic Folders Kleenex Spiral Notebooks Pencil Erasers Watercolor Paint Sets Expo Dry Erase Marker



The 1st group of backpacks will be donated to Charles Mack Elementary on Aug 9th. The second group of backpacks will be donated to Parkway Elementary. We will be stuffing those at a later date in Aug. So, stay tuned for more information. And thank you to everyone who has helped so far!

Cathy Davis and Linda Duffek, Co-Chairs



On July 1^{st} Community Concerns held our 1^{st} hotdog lunch giveaway. Although it was extremely hot, the hotdog lunch was enjoyed by the community and our hardworking fireworks booth crew. The leftovers were served the next day following church service. Thank you for all who attended and helped out this year!



St. Luke's Annual Fall Festival Sponsored by W-ELCA

Saturday, October 7, 2023 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Garage Sale Swap (White Elephant) Items can now be collected in the room behind Schultz Hall. Below are examples:

Home items in good condition such as kitchenware, home decorations/pictures, holiday decorations, small furniture

Books/Magazines for children, young adults, adults (fiction/non-fiction) **Toys** for children

Contact Kathy Arndt or the Church Office if you have any questions or need help transporting your donated item(s) to the Church.

Country Store Baked Good Volunteers are needed to donate items to sell. We are looking for a wide variety of cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, jellies and any other type of delicious sweets. Drop off will be Friday, October 6th from 9 a.m. to noon. **Sign-up sheet now available in the Narthex**. Contact Connie Reule or Kathy Arndt if you have any questions or if you need help transporting your baked good items to the Church on October 6th.

Fall Festival Volunteers are needed on the day of the festival to help run our various booths as well as set up and tear down. *Sign-up sheets are now available in the Narthex*. When applicable, a booth sign-up sheet will indicate the minimum number of volunteers needed only to ensure we have enough help. Please feel free to add your name to a sign-up sheet even if the minimum is reached. We welcome any and all volunteers.

Fall Festival Signage Volunteer and/or a couple of volunteers needed as soon as possible to partner with me to plan and create signs, banners etc. to place on the Church property and possibly the surrounding neighborhood. We have a few 'sandwich boards' available as well as other signs that we can possibly re-use.

Any questions, please see me before/after church or contact the Church office. Thank you! and blessings to all.

Kathy Arndt, Fall Festival Coordinator

AUGUST 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, August 6th

Sunday, August 13th

Gail Weber Altar Care Faith Thomas Altar Care

Karen Linfor Reader Sarah Madison Reader

Laura Tice Prayer Leader Lydia Toloy Prayer Leader

Sunday, August 20th

Sunday, August 27th

Kelly Boyer Altar Care Carol Carney Altar Care

Phillip Petersen Reader Shirley Prouty Reader

Howard Triebwasser Prayer Leader Andrew Weber Prayer Leader

Flowers for Sunday Worship

Sunday, August 6th

Pauline Arndt & Kathy Arndt

Sunday, August 13th

Norita Barrios

Sunday, August 20th

Carol Carney

Sunday, August 27th

Currently Available