



News and Views



August
2026

Pastor Rob Williamson
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Pastoral Perspective

“Have I not charged you, ‘Be strong and stalwart’? Do not be terror-stricken and do not cower, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

Grace and peace to you all! I sit here in my office, not cowering from the heat, but remaining where I am safe and secure in the sure trust that God is preparing me to do battle with it when it has waned in strength. The spirit is willing, but the flesh sweats.

There are times when I do want to cower from the world, though. Beloved, I am not afraid to say that our current times frighten me. There are times when I want to curl up in a dark room and avoid anything outside for fear of what I might hear or see next. What illness or infestation that had been contained is come upon us? In which new avoidable conflict have we become entangled? What new scandal is uncovered before being ignored?

At other times I want to rage, to feel the fury inside me become uncontained, exploding so the world knows my frustration and displeasure at what has come to pass. Rampant bullying from those who are meant to lead, obvious lying, self-dealing corruption, and claiming the name of Christ in hypocrisy so foul that it makes my stomach turn threaten to turn my righteous anger into a destructive wave that threatens the emotional and spiritual well-being of everyone, especially myself. I have left the room, but I am still reacting to the fear I feel, lashing out in an attempt to protect myself.

But who would that benefit? In what way would either of these responses serve God? Either one destroys my ability to participate in the work of the Body of Christ, the co-creation of God’s realm on earth. Neither one serves God. Neither one serves God’s realm.

The call to us is *not* to react. Reacting is acting too late. Reacting to the world assumes the world has control and we merely exist to be acted upon. But we are charged to be strong and stalwart, to be courageous in our temperament. We are called to *act*, and acting requires forethought, planning, more than simple instinct. Acting helps create what we wish to be.

It is natural to feel fear right now. It is natural for that fear to turn to anger. Having courage, being brave, is not acting without fear, but in spite of fear. To be strong and stalwart, we must not be moved by our fear, but by our love and trust in God. We must not be forced to react, but must choose to act. Feel the righteous anger that moves you toward justice and mercy and make the world react to the peace and fellowship we create.

Amen.
Pastor Rob



27th Annual Fireworks Sale

...and on the 8th day, they rested...

A personal thank you to everyone who goes way above and beyond to help at the booth each year. Having all of you to assist makes the week just breeze by!

Even after 27 years, there's always something new going on for the Fireworks Booth. Besides the fellowship and fun, this year we had America's Semi quinentennial and our own Carnival on the 4th of July which had games, USA trivia, free popcorn, sno-cones, music and a bake sale. It drew a lot of attention to the Fireworks sale and helped contribute to a great July 4th for us and for the neighborhood. Also, this year we enjoyed our very own St. Luke's Police Force. Benjamin Iniguez created his own uniform, made his own church-inspired patches and signage around the church, so that he could keep us safe and sane. Just ask his proud grandma, Peggy Moser, all about it. It was just wonderful.

We still had our crafters every day – knitting and looming and making all kinds of crafts. We had the usual abundance of volunteers who helped out by providing food, water, snacks, drinks, other tangible or monetary donations, selling or buying fireworks, setting up or taking down the booth, signage, and those who spread the word to stop on by and visit us – always help on hand. And food, always good food arriving. No one goes hungry at the booth!

We moved the booth this year with the sale of the back property. We moved further down Center Parkway, close to Tangerine. The move resulted in better visibility and more shoppers – and we all were much happier with more trees for better shading and comfort. And the weather cooperated as well!

Those extra shoppers resulted in 50% more sales over last year. We set 3 new daily records along with a new high mark for the week. By the end of the sale, we sold over \$32,100, which was \$8,000 over our 27-year historical average. Can I get a Whoo-Hoo over that?! So, after paying expenses (fireworks, taxes, permits and stuff), we put just over \$11,000 in the bank to help the Property Board with the work they do here in keeping the church facilities in tip-top shape! Of that total, 10% will go to the Community Concerns Board to be shared for benevolence.

Our list of volunteers and visitors is good and long this year. I especially wanted to point out that Jim and Linda Fenske drove all the way out from Iowa just to help at the booth (ok, maybe they were here to visit his mom, Micki, but I think they really wanted to help us at the booth)! Hopefully we didn't miss anyone – Carolyn, Lajuan, Bob, Kelly, Rosie, Carol, Phillip, Jennifer, Larry, Punky, Joe, Maddie, Darren, Deanna, Victoria, Isaac, Leo, Larry, Deanna, Linda, Lisa, Vicky, Romero, Gaylen, Cathy, Jim, Linda, Micki, Kim, Megan, Liam, Rosabella, Dorothy, Susan, Christina, Carl, Triss, Holly, Finn, Jack, Megan, Arthur, Jesse, Katie, Ben, Alexander, Kirsten, Scott, Melanie, Bruce, Karen, Jared, Rachel, Jake, Adalyn, Jeff, Alison, Steven, Karen, Chet, Sara, Joyce, Kathy, Rose Ann, Peggy, Karen, Sandy, Shirley, Jeremy, Renee, Dave, Judy, Lois, Mark, Scott, Victor, JoAnn, Jim, Brenda, Faith, Justin, Laura, Pastor Rob, and Jacob! We couldn't have done it without all of you!

A last note about numbers. For our sales totals and the profit made during our 27 years, on total sales of almost \$662,000 (including sales tax), and after expenses, our profit for these last 27 years has been in the amount of è \$226,148.01
Not a bad haul and a good job to all!

Thank you to everyone and see you next year!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Committee Chairman

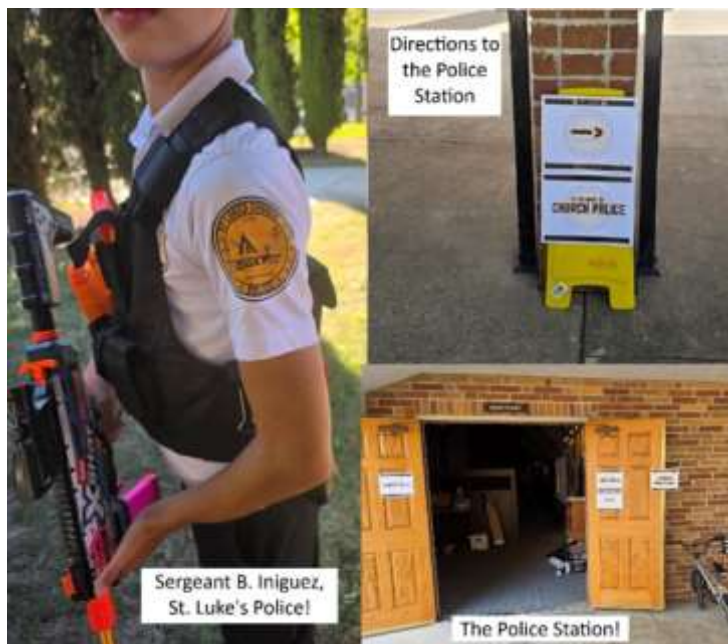


Here's Sargent B. Iniguez providing policing services



Sergeant B. Iniguez protecting the Fireworks Booth, Merchandise, Volunteers, and the Public

Closeup of his shoulder patch, signage and office



Brenda looking “snarly” in response to a young customer who had asked her...
“Are you 99 years old?”!



Fourth of July at St. Luke's



Enjoying the shade under our beautiful cedar trees



Riley King and Pastor Rob



Riley was baptized by Pastor Carl in 2014





Table discussion with the Pastors

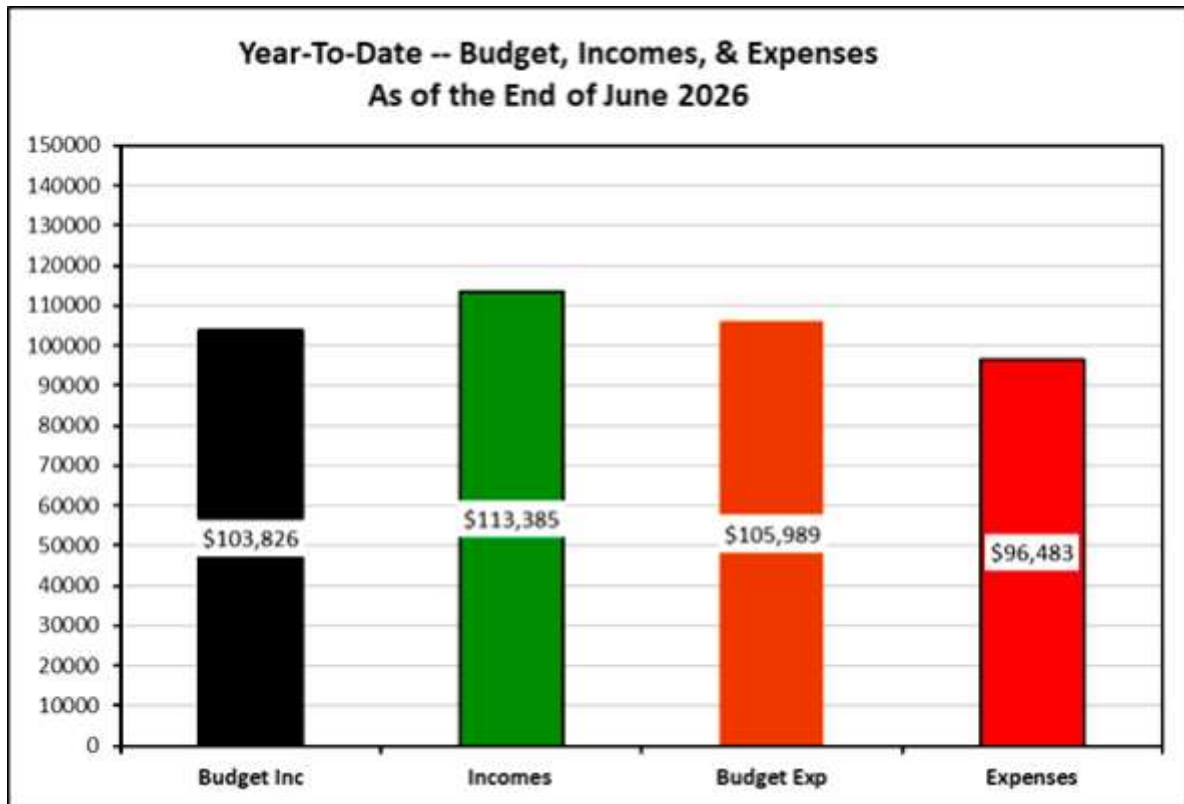


Bake Sale goodie



Holly Hoppman and Jeff Kiser handing out the popcorn

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 June 2026. As shown, the year-to-date Incomes (\$113,385, which includes all donations, facility use, etc.) exceed the Budget Income (\$103,826) by about \$9,500 potentially due to annual/quarterly giving. The year-to-date Expenses (\$96,483) are below the Budget Expenses (\$105,989) by approximately \$9,500. Partial “savings” to Expenses are due to some charges forecast earlier than actually expended as well as 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



Pat Webb (*center*) with the Soul Sisters at the Sunday Luncheon on July 26th

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, August 2

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Kirsten Ireton & Steven Lee	Ushers
Daniel & Shirley	Acolytes
Clarncce Korhonen	Reader
Phil Petersen	Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Bob Behr Scott Kelly	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 9

Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Gaylen Everett & Cathy Davis	Ushers
Peggy & Kelly	Acolytes
Laura Tice	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader
Peggy Moser Linda Duffek Karen Linfor	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 16

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Daniel Laryea & Victor Sulli	Ushers
Connie & Laura Tice	Acolytes
Punky Dias	Reader
Kelly Boyer	Prayer Leader
Karen Linfor Kirsten Ireton Connie Reule	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 23

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Christiana Wilson & Laura Tice	Ushers
Peggy & Laura Sondrini	Acolytes
Karen Linfor	Reader
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader
Shirley Prouty Laura tice Daniel Laryea	Communion Servers

Sunday, August 30

Marlene Kiser Linda Duffek & Phil Petersen	Altar Care Ushers
Daniel & Shirley Sarah Madison Phil Karlstad	Acolytes Reader Prayer Leader
Faith Thomas, Bob Behr Scott Kelly	Communion Servers



Birthdays This Month

Lois Sherrets	August 01
Lydia Toloy	August 03
Alexander Iniguez	August 07
Kennard Ferguson	August 07
Irene Boschee	August 08
Linda Duffek	August 10
Randy Vance	August 10
Stephanie Espinoza	August 11
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



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**



September
BIRTHDAYS

Marlene Kiser	September 02
Cathy Davis	September 03
Jerry Thomas	September 03
Pauline Arndt	September 07
Barbara Manlapig	September 07
Michele Sondrini	September 08
Gaylen Everett	September 11
Iva Bates	September 13
Suzanne Zemke	September 16
Punky Dias	September 17
Miles Zemke	September 18
Noella Sondrini	September 21
Jun Vang	September 21
Anthony Diaz	September 24
Gage Gadreault	September 25
Tom Harper	September 28
Wesly Connell	September 28
Ezekiel Vang	September 29
Lynn Gavia	September 30

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Since 1993, St. Peter's Lutheran School has been providing quality, Christ-centered education to families in Elk Grove and surrounding areas as the primary mission of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. We are currently seeking the school administrator that God has prepared to lead our school.

The ideal candidate for this position has a mature and vibrant faith, strongly values Christian education, and is committed to integrating a Christian worldview into all classroom instruction. The School Administrator is expected to be a capable leader, effective communicator, and have strong interpersonal relationship skills. Requirements include, but are not limited to a bachelor's degree in education or related field, a teaching credential, and teaching experience. If you believe God may be leading you to this position, please contact the school office at (916) 689-3050 for more information and an application.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign up to provide flowers for our worship services. There is a sign up chart 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!



Ice Cream Floats
Sunday, September 6th
After church.
Hosted by the
Evangelism Board.



August 2: Kelly Boyer & Lois Sherrets

August 9: Laura Weaver & Laura Tice

August 16: Jacob & Christiana Wilson

August 23: Carole & Mack Vance

August 30: Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett