

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective

Jesus had an amazing way of relating with folks who were on the outskirts of society or looked down on by others. He accepted them as they were even though they had life styles or behaviors of which he didn't approve. In fact, Jesus was known as "a friend of sinners".

It is a reality that Jesus accepts those whom others would simply try their best to keep away from. The question, then, that hits us in the face is "How can we reject and ignore those whom Jesus loves and accepts?"

Maybe we have the wrong idea about this acceptance business. True, Jesus accepted the prostitutes and adulterers, but he didn't approve of what they were doing. True, Jesus accepted the tax-collectors and others who took advantage of their own people for financial gain, but he didn't approve of their dishonesty and cheating. When Jesus is described as "a friend of sinners" this doesn't mean he puts his stamp of approval on sinfulness and immorality. Acceptance and approval are two different things.

Jesus knew a meaningful relationship has to begin with acceptance. Without acceptance there is no loving concern, just cold judgment. Any kind of helpful relationship between people begins with recognizing and affirming the common bond of humanity between ourselves and others. Jesus willingly and lovingly did that. That really is what the miracle of God becoming human is all about.

If I am going to minister to you, I must meet you where you are. If you are going to minister to me, you must do the same. This is the way Jesus ministered with folks. He didn't hide from folks or keep away from them. He interacted with them in love.

Jesus demonstrated what acceptance means and what it does. It opens the way to sharing love. Acceptance is really love's first word. It is the foundation of loving deeds that follow. Jesus shows us the way that works. He shows us a kind of love that can change our lives and the lives of others for good.

What then are we to do? First, let's receive and give thanks for Jesus' acceptance and love given graciously to us and then, in his power, show acceptance and love to our fellow sinful brothers and sisters in this world.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



Hello Family,

First I wish you all well in Christ Jesus... Thank you Pastor Carl, for wanting to take us through this course, and providing fellowship. You are getting us through a rough time in our church. As always with God's Love and Grace.

I've enjoyed going with my mom and enjoyed the most delicious food provided. I've enjoyed the studies, particularly #3 The Anatomy of a Baptism. The Holy Spirit has given me the knowledge and confidence to talk to my daughter about getting Ty and Jasmine, my grandchildren baptized. She is all for it!!! And the children are for it!!!

They told me this last weekend. I am over joyed!!!!

I am looking forward to this happening in the near future. I've prayed for this to happen, with our course, Pastor Carl, all of you, the Holy Spirit, me being in the study, and God's perfect timing. One of the most beautiful experience's in my life. I'm so glad to write about it to share with all of you.

The speakers thus far have been articulate. Their voices so calm and exciting at the same time. I'm looking forward to sharing them with Lydia.

Also what I have enjoyed is the fellowship. When we all got our books I could hear some of the ladies giggling, then more people were talking about the book. It was fun.

I would like to thank everyone who is participating,. And to say to Andrew and Jacob, you are why we're here, for your confirmation and your journey with Christ. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Sincerely Kelly B.



The reason I like the Wednesday Bible Study and Potlucks, is because I love spending time with fellow believers in the faith, plus, there's nothing like Lutheran potlucks...such yummy dishes are displayed for our enjoyment!

Also, this summer, the study of Luther's work is enhanced by the weekly videos which portray Martin and Katie in little household "situations".

There are also videos of various presenters, i.e., a Professor Emeritus of Church History at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, and a Professor of Systematic Theology at Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. These short videos are great, and help explain things that we, as lay folks might come across in our study.

The evening begins with prayer, sometimes we sing a hymn, and then Pastor Carl directs our attention to the chapter in the Lutheran Handbook, which will be our focus for the evening. There's a section called "Church Stuff", about things like "How to Get to Know Your Pastor", "How to Respond When Someone Sits in Your Pew", "How to Receive Communion", and many other interesting titles.

In addition, there is a Course Workbook, with various "sessions" such as "How to Tell the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel", "Five things You Should know About the Lutheran Reformation", and "The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did". (Our video presentation on the 16th touched on this one.) The back of the handbook says in part, "Following Jesus is hard enough without having to navigate the rocky terrain of church culture all by yourself".

Here is a quote I borrowed, (with permission to share): "In a world full of Methobapticostals, Papists, Evanjellybros, and Pre-Trib Rapture Watchfolks, be a Lutheran!!

I highly recommend that you pick up a copy of The Lutheran Handbook and The Lutheran Course Workbook, both available in the Narthex.

With love from above, see you at church!

Karen

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Message from Council President Chet Madison

St. Luke Lutheran Church "Call Committee"

There is no doubt that some of us have become frustrated, impatient, and discouraged by not having a permanent reliable pastor after going over two years without pastoral leadership. However, all is not doom and gloom at St. Luke Lutheran Church. We have such hard working dedicated members that continue to do God's work in serving the community. We are blessed to have Pastor Carl come out of retirement to be our Term Pastor until we get a permanent pastor for our church.

*...."For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done
the will of God, you may receive what is promised."*

Hebrews 10:36

The Call Committee has been reestablished to pursue a permanent pastor for St. Luke Lutheran Church. In fact, we had our first meeting August 29, 2023 to begin planning and working with the Synod to move as quickly as possible to fill the vacant pastoral position at St. Luke Church.

Your Call Committee members are: Peggy Moser, Brenda Sulzmann, Faith Thomas, Paul Maki, Phil Karlstad, Rachel Kiser and Chet Madison, Chair.

Amber Mansfield was unable to serve on the Call Committee at this time because she is away attending college. We are so grateful to have Rachel Kiser as a new addition serving on the Call Committee. She is a long standing member of St. Luke Lutheran Church.

We ask for your continued prayers for the Call Committee members as we move forward pursuing a new pastor.

Chet Madison
Council President



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Sacramento/Elk Grove

Members and Friends

Fall, 2023

The Fall 2023 St. Luke's Members and Friends Roster is now available! Thanks for providing your latest family information. We now have a very helpful tool to contact one another. Please prayerfully consider getting in touch with folks you haven't seen for a while. I know from long experience that people really appreciate others reaching out to them. Pick up a copy of the Roster at church on Sunday or during the week. If you can't get by church, let me know and I will mail you a copy. Please contact the church office when you have changes in family information or discover phone numbers or email addresses that aren't correct so we can get updated information out to everyone.

Thanks for all your help with getting the Roster together.—Pastor Carl



Confirmation will take place at our **10:30 a.m.** worship on **Sunday, September 24**. I am delighted to announce that Jacob Kiser and Andy Weber will be confirmed. I would like to invite the 2020-21 Confirmation class to attend to have a class picture taken for the Sanctuary wall and to receive a Confirmation gift. If memory serves, that class includes Anthony and Victor Basquez Jr., Conner Ricciardi (Hisamoto), Claire Kerian (Korhonen), Lucy Orcutt, Lauren Richey, Noella Sondrini, and JaiLia and Izaiah Vang. These youth were confirmed in family groups because of the pandemic. Please help me encourage them to get together for a recognition of their Confirmation at worship on Sunday September 24.

They are all listed in the new Roster!

—Pastor Carl



**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to serve on the 100th Anniversary Committee. We will have an organizational meeting Sunday, September 10 after church in the fellowship hall. We will be deciding on the theme, organizing sub-committees, and setting the meeting schedule for future meetings.

A light lunch will be served so we don't get "hangry".

If you would like to serve on the planning committee for the celebration, there is still time to sign up. 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.



"FRIENDS & FAMILY SUNDAY"

Starting in September 2023, we would like to have a "Friends & Family Sunday" established **every first Sunday of each month**. Basically, we can reach out to extend an invitation to a neighbor, family member, friends and many others that we all come in contact with during our daily routines. In addition to our Sunday worship service at St. Luke Lutheran Church, we would like to also invite Friends & Family to several of our planned social activities that take place throughout the year.

Remember, it is not only what our church can do for us, but what we can do to make it better in serving the community. Thus, building our church attendance to do God's work!

Chet Madison
Church Council President



Marlene Kiser	September 02
Cathy Davis	September 03
Pauline Arndt	September 07
Barbara Manlapig	September 07
Iva Bates	September 13
Noella Sondrini	September 21
Anthony Diaz	September 24
Tom Harper	September 28
Jack Fenske	September 29
Lynn Gavia	September 30



Sept 3	<i>available</i>
Sept 10	Carl & Triss Hoppman
Sept 17	<i>available</i>
Sept 24	Peggy Moser

If you would like to provide flowers for worship for a special occasion, in memory or honor of someone, or simply to beautify the chancel for worship, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Then please bring a flower arrangement and place it on the stand next to the lectern before worship and take it with you after worship.



Choir begins Wednesday September 6th. Meeting time is 6:00pm to 7:15pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited to join choir every Wednesday. We will begin working on the Cantata from the first rehearsal. We will meet every Sunday at 10:00am to rehearse our choir anthem for that day.

-Sincerely, Jane Fanucci



September's W-ELCA meeting will be on Saturday, **September 9** at the Chicago Fire Restaurant at 7101 Laguna Blvd Elk Grove for lunch. The meeting will start at 11:30 am as usual. If some of the ladies would like to meet at the Church and carpool that would be fine. Each person will be paying for their own meal.



24th Annual Fireworks Sale

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

First, I want to personally thank everyone who went above and beyond to help out at the booth, especially since I wasn't able to stay the whole day. Having all of you to assist, made my comings and goings a whole lot easier.

Ok, sales. Not a bad year, but not a great year. We made the decision to move the booth from the Mack and Valley Hi location to the church grounds. This proved a lot more convenient for all. Even though we had a couple of HOT days (including a 109 degree day), we were a whole lot more comfortable with the church amenities readily available. The location was safe, secure, and our days were shorter with not having to deliver and return fireworks from the TNT warehouse each and every day!

For the numbers, we sold just over \$21,000. A little lower sales this year, so we may adjust the location of the booth next year to help with visibility. Also, with price increases and the unfortunate proliferation of illegal fireworks, many customers just stayed home. And the last time July 4th was on a Tuesday, it was also a much lower sales year. So, after paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, permits and stuff), we'll put just over \$7,077 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.

It was good to see all the crafters who took up residence at the booth for the week – knitting, looming, jewelry making – all kinds of craft work going on! We had an 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. And food, always good food arriving. No one goes hungry at the booth! We always have a great time working at the booth because it's always nice to meet the new faces, welcome our returning customers, and to watch the excitement in the kids' faces. That's the best part, the fellowship and fun we share with our neighbors and friends.

Finally, a shout-out to the faithful team of volunteers and visitors – Dorothy, Carolyn, Lajuan, Kathy, Pauline, Bob, Kelly, Elizabeth, Tim, Stephanie, Alanna, Mateo, Carol, Rick, Punky, Anthony, Deanna Jr., Victoria, Isaac, Leo, Deanna Sr., Renee, Darren, Michael, Linda, Betty, Lisa, Gaylen, Cathy, Vicki, Sharon, Jack, Micki, Pastor Carl, Triss, Holly, Dave, Judy, Lois, Matthew, Jim, Brenda, Faith, Jared, Rachel, Jake, Adalyn, Marlene, Stephen, Karen, Jesse, Katie, Ben, Zander, Ed, Kirsten, Clarence, Chet, Sarah Jo, Amber, Peggy, Greg, Lauren and baby belly, Dean, Shirley, Deven, Justine, Gail, Andy, Frank, Mark, Suzanne and many, many, others. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Thank you to all and see you next year!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Committee Chairman

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

July 2023

General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$23,054	\$107,861
Compared to Budget	\$9,716	\$14,498
	72.8%	15.5%
No. of Contributors	59	56 aver.

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

Other Contributions:

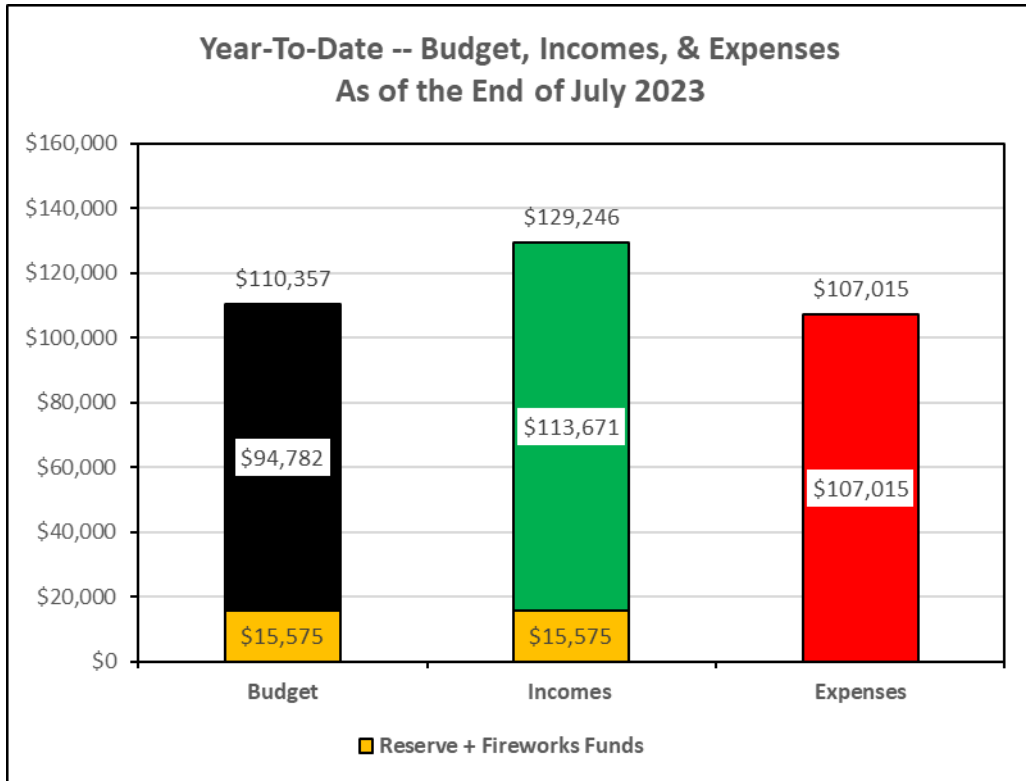
Fireworks – \$230 (donations)
Youth Fund – \$15 (recycling)

Comments:

- A. July was a **fantastic** month, primarily because a number of substantial contributions were received , some of which were quarterly and annual (one time) contributions.
- B. July's offerings were also aided by being a five-Sunday month.
- 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 July 2023. As shown, the Incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplement (\$113,671) exceed the Expenses (\$107,015) which follows the quarterly giving pattern and probable annual giving contribution received in July. Donations/Incomes for the next couple of months will provide a better indication as to the end of year expectations. Expenses for the year remained below Budgeted Funds when the supplemental Reserve and Fireworks Funds (\$110,357) 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

Worship Attendance

In person attendance

August 6th - 48

August 13th - 51

August 20th - 51

August 27th - 57

YouTube views

August 6th - 27

August 13th - 29

August 20th - 27

August 27th - 17

Benjamin and Alexander
sprucing up the little library.



Sunday school will be resuming for the Fall on
Sunday October 1st.

There will be 2 classes this year,
split by age groups.

We are still looking for volunteers to help fill in
when needed.

Please reach out to Laura Tice
for more information 916-271-7566

Thank you!!

Laura Tice



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

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

Our 2023 Fall Festival is getting closer and is only one month away. We still have many booth and other volunteer opportunities available. ***Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex*** or let me know if you are interested.

Garage Sale Swap (White Elephant) donation collection is growing with plenty of room to collect more. Let me know if you need any help transporting items to the Church. Our **Plant Booth** is in need of small to medium pots and plants and/or plant cuttings that you can donate. See Dorothy Haney or me if you have any questions or need help transporting your donated pots/plants to the Church. Additional **Country Store** baked items are needed to sell. We are looking for a wide variety of cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, jellies and any other type of delicious sweets. ***Sign-up sheet now available in the Narthex.*** Contact Connie Reule or me if you have any questions.

I am pleased to share that we will have a community outreach type of informational booth this year sponsored by PI Public Information (PI) in Alcoholics Anonymous/Professional Community (CPC) and Al-Anon/Ala-Teen. We will also have a returning vendor booth selling teddy bears.

Look for more information about the final pre-Fall Festival preparation activities (*White Elephant sorting and packaging Baked Goods for sale*) in the September Sunday Church Bulletins. Any questions about the festival, please see me before/after church or contact the Church office. Thank you! and blessings to all.

Kathy Arndt, Fall Festival Coordinator

SEPTEMBER 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, September 3rd

Gail Weber	Altar Care
Faith Thomas	Reader
Gail Weber	Prayer Leader

Sunday, September 10th

Faith Thomas	Altar Care
Laura Tice	Reader
Christiana Wilson	Prayer Leader

Sunday, September 17th

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care
Lydia Toloy	Reader
Bob Behr	Prayer Leader

Sunday, September 24th

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Howard Triebwasser	Reader
Kelly Boyer	Prayer Leader

St. Luke Soul Sisters group celebrating with
Carolyn Andrews on her 80th Birthday!

