

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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# News And Views 2025

## P a s t o r a l   P e r s p e c t i v e

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders...

- Isaiah 9:6a

Grace and peace to you all! I hope this chilly time finds you with warmth in your hearts.

As we head in to the Advent season, beginning our new year, it's a good time to reflect on what came before and what we want the future to be.

I want to encourage you to remember the goals your council set for this congregation: increasing membership, adding education opportunities, and increasing visibility in the surrounding community. We have a lot of work to do on all three, and I will need your help to do so.

I plan on adding a second Bible study specifically focused around the Gospel reading from the Revised Common Lectionary, the series of readings we use on Sundays. This is not to take the place of the Bible study already underway, looking at various books of the Bible; this is to add to it, allowing us to take an in-depth look at the Gospels themselves, increasing our understanding together. This will start in January after Epiphany; I will have more information on weekday and time soon. What I really need your help on is attendance. Studies have shown that people do not simply walk into churches anymore; it's far too easy to not go to church on Sunday morning rather than make the uncomfortable journey into somewhere new.

No, the main way people come to church now is *if they are asked*. I can only invite so many people; remember, I don't live in this area. This means that if people are going to be invited, it has to be by *you*. We are coming up on a time of year that is perfect for invitation: Christmas and Epiphany. This is the a time of warmth and welcome where we celebrate one of the most recognizable Christian events. Invite people to church. Friends, family, neighbors; share the warmth and welcome of Christ. This may be uncomfortable for you, but growth is always uncomfortable. I invite you to grow this holiday season as ministers and evangelists, spreading the invitation. You may find that most people either already have somewhere to go or decline, but you also do not know how the Spirit may move. Be bold. Trust in God to give you strength. Take the amazing welcome I have seen within our walls and stretch it out into the world.

Let this be the church year we grow, not just as a congregation, but as disciples. Let us take the message out and grow our community, trusting in God to use our work to make something beautiful.

Blessings,  
PR

## THANKSGIVING 'FIX-INS' FOOD COLLECTION DRIVE



The Community Concerns Board extends a huge 'Thank You!' to all who donated to this year's Thanksgiving Food Collection Drive. Also, Thank You! to the Sacramento Youth Band who dropped off food donations. On Wednesday, November 19, a group from the Board delivered your generous donations to the Elk Grove Food Bank. Our Congregation donated an amazing 500 lbs.! We actually filled up and overflowed one bin. Many families will now have a blessed Thanksgiving.



## 2025 Benevolence Recipients



The Community Concerns Board has a designated Benevolence Special Fund that is used specifically to give monetary donations to Charity recipients. Contributors to this fund are proceeds from the Fireworks sales designated by the Property Board as well as designated proceeds from other special Congregation events. Each year, the Board selects recipients. In September, the Board voted to give \$500 to four recipients (Meals on Wheels, Project RIDE, Lutheran Disaster Relief and the St. Luke Pastor Assistance Fund). Below is a 'Thank You' response from one of the recipients (Project RIDE).

Please know that your gift helps our students grow socially, emotionally, physically with every cognitively lessor. In gratitude for your gift, All your friends at Project RIDE

Donation - \$500

October 7, 2025

To everyone @ Lutheran St. Luke Church.

On behalf of the Project RIDE Inc. Board of Directors, staff, valued volunteers, our riders of unique challenges & our gentle giants, we are humbled to receive your generous donation.

Our goal is to improve the quality of lives for others through this meaningful therapeutic horseback riding program and your contribution makes a difference !!

# JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

W-ELCA CHRISTMAS  
GATHERING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH  
AT 11:30AM



SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 14TH  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE



CANTATA

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 21ST  
10:30AM



DECEMBER 24TH  
7:00PM



**JOIN US! 10TH & 17TH  
ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS ON  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6PM  
IN SCHULTZ HALL.  
FOLLOWED BY  
THE HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AT  
6:45PM**



*Advent*

**SIGN UP TO BE AN ADVENT READER  
SUNDAY DEC. 21ST OR CHRISTMAS EVE  
THE SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE NARTHEX.**

# Christmas Gift Drive

## Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families has again been selected as the recipient of our annual Christmas gift drive. The organization has been serving youth and families in our community for almost 125 years and serves approximately 6,700 children and families in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, Napa, Solano, and San Joaquin counties annually.

Their services include family advocacy and peer support; behavioral and mental health services; substance use prevention and treatment; juvenile justice intervention; mentoring; foster care, adoption services, and pre- and post- adoption services.

To help the families they serve, the organization offers a “gift shop” to the caregivers where they can, at no cost to them, select appropriate and meaningful gifts for the children in their care. Our contributions will help stock the gift shop and provide special moments of holiday connection for these families. If you would like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gifts, and place them under the tree at the back of the sanctuary by December 7.



Please see below for suggestions of gifts by age. Most of the children they serve are ages 10 and up.

**7 – 9 Years:** Stuffed Toys, Squishmallows, Barbies, Action Figures, Toy Cars, Educational Games, Puzzles, Board Games, Movie Tickets, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Fidget/Sensory Toys, Lego Sets, Arts & Craft Kits, Science Kits, Play Pretend Costumes

**10 – 12 Years:** Wireless Earphones, Gift Cards, Roblox, Minecraft Games, Bath Bombs, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Roller Skates, Tablet, slime Kits, Lego Sets, Gingerbread House Kits

**13 – 15 Years:** Press on Nails, Nail Polish, Lotion and Body Wash Sets, Fragrance Sets, Makeup Sets, Journal Sets, Books, Wireless Ear Buds, Video Games, Gift Cards, Scooters, Bikes, Roller Skates, Helmets, Skateboards, Tablets, Science Kits, Anime Posters, Clothing, Pajamas, Lego Sets.

**16 Years and up:** Books, Comic Books, Mangas, Wireless Ear Buds, Fragrance Sets, Makeup Sets, Arts & Crafts Sets, Board Games, Gift Cards, Video Games, Xbox/Playstation/Steam Gift Cards, Gaming Accessories (Headsets/Controllers/Steering Wheels), Smart Watches, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Helmets, Nail Sets (Press on Nails and Polish), Graphic Tees, Hoodies, Sweatshirts (Zumiez/Journeys/Pacsun), Clothing, Pajamas.

# Poinsettias



If you would like to donate \$15 towards the purchase of a Poinsettia Plant in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the form in the Sunday worship bulletin or in the narthex and enclose it with your donation in a pew envelope. The poinsettias will be used to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas Season and can be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Andrews. All orders are due by Wednesday, December 17th. Thank you.

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Advent devotionals and the Christmas Card exchange box are now available in the Narthex.



## Happy Birthday to the December Born

Alanna Olmeda	December 01
Rosabella Lydia	
Hamilton	December 02
Carole Vance	December 03
Faith Harper	December 03
Kim Fenske	December 04
Benjamin Iniguez	December 05
Jared Kiser	December 05
Lauren Richey	December 09
Betty Englund	December 14
Chet Madison	December 16
Sylvia Kohler	December 21
Triss Hoppman	December 25
Chandler Gadreault	December 25
Robert Harrison	December 26
Deanna Dockter	December 27
Victor Jr. Basquez	December 29
Adalyn Kiser	December 31

# Gratitude

The Ireton family extends our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has surrounded us with prayers, love, and support throughout Ed's illness and in the days following his passing. Ed deeply loved his church family and found great strength in your encouragement and kindness. Thank you for lifting him—and us—up during this difficult journey.

With appreciation,  
Kirsten



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 7	<i>Currently available</i>
Dec. 14	<i>Currently available</i>
Dec. 21	<i>Currently available</i>
Dec. 24	<i>Currently available</i>
Dec. 28	<i>Currently available</i>

# DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Sunday, December 7

Carol Carney	Altar Care
Sarah Madison	Announcements
Phil Petersen	Reader
Peggy Moser	Prayer Leader



## Sunday, December 14



Peggy Moser	Altar Care
Laura Tice	Announcements
Shirley Prouty	Reader
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader

## Sunday, December 21

Shirley Prouty	Altar Care
Peggy Moser	Announcements
Sarah Madison	Reader
Phil Karlstad	Prayer



## CHRISTMAS EVE

Marelene Kiser	Altar Care
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## Sunday, December 28

Connie Reule	Altar Care
Chet Madison	Announcements
Bob Behr	Reader
Kirsten Ireton	Prayer Leader



## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT October 2025

### General Fund Contributions (only):

Data	This Month	Year to Date
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$20,595	\$159,013
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	\$4,410	<b>-\$2,837</b>
	27.2%	<b>-1.7%</b>
<b>No. of Contributors</b>	51	54 avg.

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

### Other Contributions:

None.

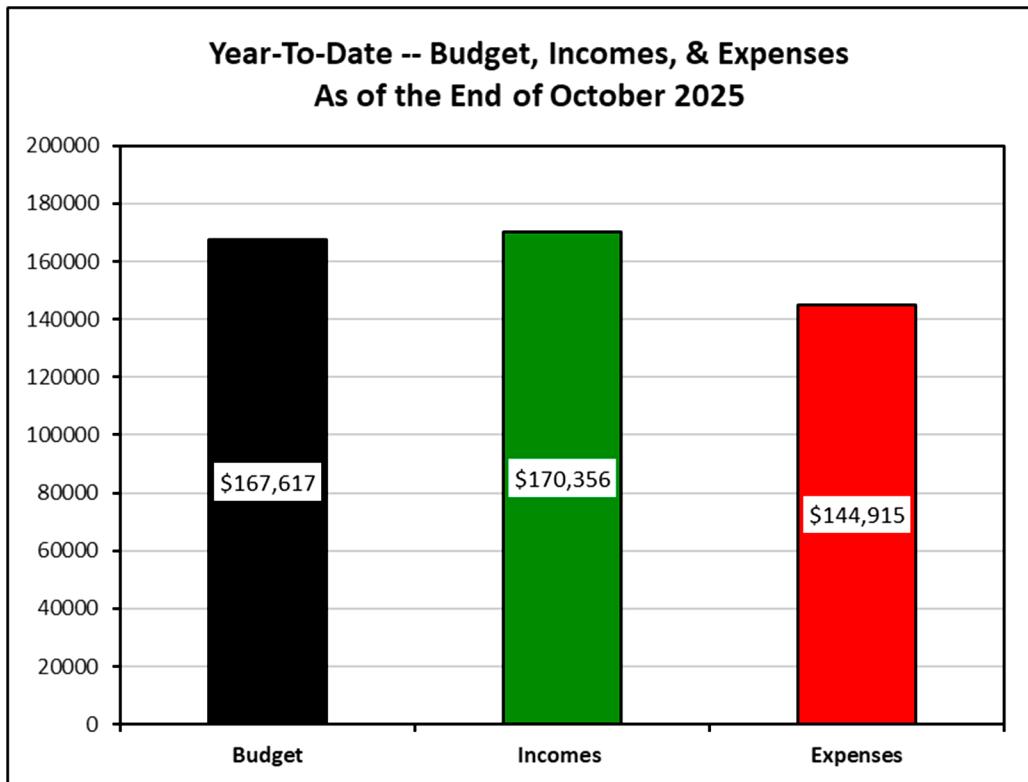
### Comments:

- a. The October offerings for four Sundays **exceeded** the budget for the month.
- b. As of the end of October the year-to-date offerings are about 2.0 percent **below** the adopted Budget.

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Chair, St. Luke's Financial Board

## FINANCES TO DATE



The Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the **Budget**, **Incomes** (Offerings and Facility Usage Fees), and **Expenses**, as of the end of October 2025. As shown, through October, the Incomes (\$170,356) continue to exceed the Expenses (\$144,915) by about \$26,000. The year-to-date Expenses continue to be below the Budget (\$167,617) by approximately \$23,000. Your continued support and commitment through weekly/monthly offerings help us to continue to meet our commitments through 2025.

FINANCE BOARD



Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's call to spread the Good News, serve those in need, and share the Victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

*-St. Luke's Mission Statement*