



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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 Pastor Carl Hoppman
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NEWS AND VIEWS

Pastoral Perspective



Between three and six o'clock in the morning, he came to them. He was walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. They said, "It's a ghost!" and began to scream because they were afraid. Immediately, Jesus said,

"Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!"

Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, order me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he noticed how strong the wind was, he became afraid and started to sink. He shouted, "Lord, save me!" Immediately, Jesus reached out, caught hold of him, and said, "You have so little faith! Why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:25-31

We learn from Peter's adventure about our need to focus on the great sustaining power of Jesus in the midst of the "strong winds" that are blowing currently in our lives, our nation, and the world. This sustaining power of Jesus made it possible for Peter to walk on water, and lifted Peter out of the turbulent water when he lost focus.

When Peter focused on Jesus, he was able to participate in the tremendous power and presence of the Lord. When he panicked, he blocked that participation and began to sink. When he cried for help, he again opened the avenue to participation. Jesus hauled him out of the water, asking him simply, "Why did you doubt?" which amounts to saying, "Why didn't you keep focused on me? You could walk through any storm, no matter how strong the winds, if you just keep focused on me." Faith that can sustain us through these turbulent times is not found in trying somehow to believe that we will be safe and everything will return to normal even though our panicked focus is on the dangers and uncertainties that are blowing all around us. Rather, faith is found in focusing on Jesus as our Savior and sustainer. Jesus invites us to dare to trust him and not panic.

When you are overwhelmed by what's going on and feel like you are sinking, don't start desperately flailing. Focus on the sustaining power of Jesus that can always bear you up. That will make it possible for you to go yourself and help others go through these frightening times in the power that is greater than any power of this world.

As he said to his disciples, Jesus says to you, "Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!"

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with you,

Pastor Carl

REOPENING ST. LUKE'S

At its April meeting, the Church Council voted to continue to suspend worship and activities at St. Luke's facility until May 12. I have no doubt we will be able to gather again at St. Luke's before too long. We are working on making that feasible in our current circumstances. One important concern is that state and federal guidelines call on places of worship to facilitate social distancing for the time being. The Church Council has assigned the Property Board, the Board of Worship and Music, and me to work on how to do that. We invite your ideas and suggestions. Please contact Clarence Korhonen, Property Board chair, Shirley Prouty, Worship and Music chair, or me to help with any input you might have. Thank you.



Pastor Carl

Electronic Giving is Here!

St. Luke's is excited to announce that you can now make your contributions electronically. These are additional ways to support St. Luke's. The Finance Board assures you that the traditional methods of making contributions – Sundays envelope offerings and USPS mail – remain in use and valid.

The new, electronic means of making offerings are listed below. Method 1, "Bank Pay Bills", generally has no fees involved in its use, but is limited to contributions made to the "General" fund. Methods 2 through 4 involve a processing fee (see Note below), but permit contributions to a variety of funds, such as contributions for Altar Flowers, Pastoral Assistance, etc. When applicable, Methods 2 through 4 can also be used to make payments for certain activities, such as the Crab Feed, Easter Lilies, Fireworks, etc.

1. **Bank Pay Bills:** If your bank has online "pay bills" capabilities, access your bank's website

and select "Pay Bills" (or similar) and make your contribution. You will need the address of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, (7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823) and telephone number (916-421-5039). For the "account number", enter your envelope number, if feasible. If you do not know your envelope number (everyone has one), contact St. Luke's Financial Secretary (see contact information below).

Generally, there are no added fees associated with using your bank's "Pay Bills" processing system.

2. **St. Luke's Website:** Follow these simple steps. Visit the St. Luke's website at www.slelca.org. Click on the "Online Giving" button on the home page. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and make your contributions.



3. **Mobile:** Initially, download the free "GivePlus Church" app to your smart phone or tablet. Then, simply follow the on-screen instructions. The "Giveplus" app is simple to use but is limited to funds that do not require an explanation, e.g., Special Gift is not included because it requires an explanation.

Note: Methods 2 through 3 have a processing fee associated with each method. The fee varies – about 0.8 percent for bank payments (echecks) and about 2.35 or 3.5 percent for credit/debit card payments. By default, the church is obligated for the fee. However, the contributor (or payer) can elect to offset the fee for credit/debit cards. The church is always liable for the bank payment (echecks) fees.

For general information about giving, access the St. Luke's Website at www.slelca.org and click on the "Giving" heading. If you need assistance or have questions, contact St. Luke's Financial Secretary at LRFenske@comcast.net or telephone (916) 714-3626.

Paul Maki, Chairperson
St. Luke's Finance Board

WHAT PASTOR CARL HAS BEEN DOING LATELY (With a lot of help from my friends!)

The Church Council voted to suspend worship and activities at St. Luke's facility until May 12. Here is a report on some of the things that I have been involved in during the period from March 17, when the suspension started, through April 19.

1. I worked with Holly Hoppman, Rochelle Jaeger, and others to begin Web Worship. We purchased a camera and equipment using part of the Karen Behr memorial fund. We have produced and posted on our website, www.slelca.org, Web Worship each Sunday since March 29. Lauren and Dixon Richey, Lucy Orcutt, Triss Hoppman, and Ron Zoesch have been readers. Karen Linfor has been soloist. There has been an average of 158 views each week. We have also produced a "Holy Communion at Home" video and posted it on our website to facilitate receiving Holy Communion. There have been 96 views of this video so far.
2. I have expanded our "eprayer" email distribution group to include members and friends of St. Luke's for whom we have email addresses. I have renamed it "St. Luke's". There are currently 103 email addresses in the St. Luke's email distribution group. I am sending emails that I hope encourage and inform members and friends of St. Luke's regarding our ministry during this time of crisis. I also am sending prayer concerns to this group. Kirsten Ireton is posting a number of my emails on our Facebook page. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please send your email address to me at carlhoppman@gmail.com.
3. I have set up and provided "Drive-Through Prayer" in the church parking lot on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the assistance of Ron and Pat Webb, and Ron and Cheryl Franklin. So far, an average of 37 people have driven through and prayed with me each Sunday. On Palm Sunday, the Basquez family provided palm crosses to hand out. On Easter Sunday they provided bags of Easter eggs to hand out.

4. I have made many phone calls, texts, and emails to members and friends of St. Luke's to check in and provide encouragement. I have received a number as well.
5. In consultation with parents of Confirmation students, I have rescheduled Confirmation for Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020.

My profound thanks to all who are helping provide ongoing ministry during the suspension of worship and activities at St. Luke's!

Pastor Carl



The Zemke Family utilizing our web worship services at home with a beautiful altar.





Every Sunday Ron & Pat Web and Ron & Cheryl Franklin assist in making our drive through prayer run smoothly. On Easter Sunday, Pastor Carl handed out bags of Easter eggs made by some of the Youth and a surprise guest!

Join us for Drive through Prayer! We are in the church parking lot from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.

PRAYER WARRIORS OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH



Hi Prayer Warriors of St Luke's Lutheran Church. On April 1, 2020 I sent out an email to a few women of the church that might be interested in a challenge that had been impressed on me during one of my days as I was reading scripture. The challenge was to join as a group at a specific time each day for prayer for our church (St. Luke's), the whole church families of God, our families, and our government. The specific time set each day was for 11 AM, to stop for a few minutes (or more) and pray for the needs of God's people.

If you feel that you would like to join this challenge (women or men) please do, I strongly believe our prayer requests are heard by our God and Savior.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser
WELCA President

CHURCH COUNCIL AND FINANCE BOARD FINANCIAL REVIEW

During these last few weeks, the St. Luke Church Council and Finance Board have been deeply involved in reviewing the financial atmosphere. This has involved working to ensure that the Church meets its obligations to the Church Staff, work contracts, utilities, property upkeep, etc.

As part of this review, the Finance Board researched a Paycheck Protection Program offered through the Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This program is open to non-profits and faith-based organizations and offers funds to pay up to eight weeks of payroll costs and benefits through a two-year loan at 0.5% interest. Payments are deferred for six months. This loan can be "fully forgiven" based on documentation that employees are maintained along with their salaries and that not more than 25% of the "forgiven" amount was used for non-payroll costs, such as utilities. Our bank, F&M Bank, is a participant in this program.

Our current monthly budget and level of spending for payroll and benefits are approximately \$11,000 and for utilities approximately \$1,500. After closely examining our current and near future financial data, the Finance Board recommended to the Church Council that the Church submit the loan application and supporting documents to F&M Bank for a Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$25,000. The Church Council in its electronic-based meeting on April 14, 2020 approved this recommendation after review and discussion. Subsequently, the loan application and supporting documents were submitted to F&M Bank on April 17, 2020. The first round of funding for the CARES Act has been depleted; however, current negotiations are underway for additional funding. Therefore, we await any decision on our application.

It is important to note that the Church Council is fully prepared to limit this loan to payroll/benefits and utilities and to provide the rigorous documentation required to have the loan "fully forgiven". If you have any questions, please contact Paul Maki, Finance Board Chair, or Carolyn Andrews, President.

Carolyn Andrews, Congregational President
Paul Maki, Finance Board Chair
Bob Behr, Congregational Treasurer

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

March 2020

Comments:

- a. March had five Sundays, but the last two Sundays were affected by the coronavirus suspension.
- b. During the suspension period, the following means are available to make contributions.
 - Participate in the “drive-through prayer” provided by Pastor Carl and drop off your contribution at the event. Watch for Pastor Carl’s emails for dates and times.
 - Mail your contribution to the church at 7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823.
 - Drop your contribution through the mail slot in the middle Office door, i.e. the locked door between the main Office door and the westerly Courtyard door.
 - If your bank has online “pay bills” capabilities, access your bank’s website and select “Pay Bills” (or similar) to make your contributions. You will need the address of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, (see address above) and telephone number (916-421-5039).
 - Make your contribution electronically either through the church website, www.slelca.org, or via your mobile device (download the free “GivePlus Church” app for mobile).
- c. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske

St. Luke’s Financial Secretary

916-714-3626

LRFenske@comcast.net

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$14,909	\$47,012
Compared to Budget	-\$2,637	-\$4,566
	-15.0%	-8.9%
Compared to 2018	-\$2,923	-\$5,285
	-16.4%	-10.1%
No. of Contributors		
2020 (Current Year)	66	69 avg.
2019 (Last Year)	78	77 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Sunday School		\$7
Flowers		\$140
Memorials		\$96
Special Gifts (Youth Activity Fund)		\$250
Soup Supper (Youth Activity Fund)		\$190

Note: Plus values are good; minus values are not.





Kelly Boyer	May 02
Ryan Edwards	May 04
Jeremy Roberts	May 04
John Mansfield	May 08
Jennifer Petersen	May 08
Katie Iniguez	May 09
Philip Karlstad	May 14
Lucy Orcutt	May 14
Victoria Diaz	May 15
Tracy Etchison	May 16
Debi Lentsch	May 17
Brenda Sulzmann	May 18
Alison Thomas	May 18
Samantha Basquez	May 19
Carole Edwards	May 21
Liza Petsch	May 22
Claire Kerian	May 23
Nancy Minning	May 26
Kennedy Moser	May 27
Carol Carney	May 30
Dorothy Haney	May 30
Justin Tice	May 30



A PRAYER AND SOME THOUGHTS FROM KELLY BOYER

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I can not change;
The courage to change the things I can;
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as
The pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will
Make all things right
If I surrender to His will;

That I may be
Reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with
Him forever in the next.

God Bless You All !!!

Kelly Boyer



2020 GRADUATES

This year marks the 20 year anniversary of my high school graduation. This was truly a special time.

Parents, grandparents, and other proud family members, is anyone in your family graduating this year? This applies for any type of graduation, from kindergarten, 6th grade, high school onward - college, grad school, trade school, or professional school.

Until we can all celebrate together, let's honor our 2020 graduates. Please send me their picture, name, where they are graduating from and their future plans to office@slelca.org. I will feature them in our next News & Views.

Rochelle



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