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News And Views

Pastoral Perspective



The most important thing you can do as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or one who cares for young ones in any way is to help God's children come to Him. Many times, in Scripture, we hear God's gracious invitation to come to Him. The prophet Isaiah wrote: "Listen! Whoever is thirsty, come to the water! Whoever has no money can come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk. You don't have to pay; it's free!" (Isaiah 55:1) Jesus said: "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) In Revelation 22:17 we read: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' Let those who hear this say, 'Come!' Let those who are thirsty come! Let those who want the water of life take it as a gift."

God calls us to come to Him. That is because it is God's earnest desire that every one of His children would come to Him and know the joy of being in right relationship with Him forever. In the first pages of the Bible, after Adam and Eve had sinned and were hiding from God, God came looking for them. In searching love God "called out to the man and asked him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9) The loving call of God reached its climax when Jesus was lifted up on the cross, "drawing all people toward him." (John 12:32)

The reason, then, that it is so important to help God's children come to Him is that it is so important to God to have them come. Jesus said: "Don't stop the children from coming to me!" (Luke 18:16) Consider, then, how you can help God's children come to Him.

First, come to God yourself in all situations. That's especially important to remember during this challenging time. To whom do you look in times of uncertainty and concern? If you want your children to come to God in faith, you need to be doing that yourself. To whom do you give thanks and praise, trusting that you will be seen through the challenges? If you want your children to come to God in thanksgiving and praise, you need to be doing that yourself. Your children are watching you carefully. If you despair and act hopeless, they pick that up. If you trust in God, even in the most challenging times, they will remember that. If you give thanks and praise to God for His blessings in all things, your children ponder that in their hearts and grow in it.

Second, help God's children develop the skills of the life of faith. One important area in this regard is prayer. You need to pray with your children in order to help them come to God. That's the best way to show your trust in God in all situations. That's the best way to show and grow in thanks and praise of God together. Pray at mealtime, at bedtime, whenever. Don't feel like these prayers

have to be profound. They simply need to be heartfelt. If you don't feel there is anything to pray about these days, please contact me because we need to talk!

Third, spend time together discussing and learning from the Bible. Talk about children's times in Web Holy Communion. Read Bible storybooks or books based on Bible. View Bible videos together and discuss them.

Fourth, help God's children come to him in service to others. Take part together in caring and sharing projects. Teach your children to give freely and naturally from what they receive as a matter of faith. Help your children feel and act on compassion for others in need. There are a lot of folks and caring organizations that need our loving sharing at this time.

Finally, realize and allow that your children are, in truth, God's children. God has a special ministry for each of His children. Your work is to help God's children come to Him so they can grow in God's plan and purpose for them. God bless you in this incredibly special ministry.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with you,
Pastor Carl



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear St. Luke's Family,

As you all know, at its April meeting, the Church Council voted to continue to suspend worship services and all other activities at St. Luke's facility until May 12. The Church Council met on May 12 to discuss reopening the facility for worship services and other activities. It was decided and voted on at this meeting, to continue the suspension of worship services and other activities until Government entities, deem it is safe to resume normal activities. I have no doubt we will be able to gather again at St. Luke's before too long. We will be continuing the Drive-Through Prayer service each Sunday and the online worship services.

We will be putting together a committee to work out the logistics, in preparation for reopening the facility, once it is determined we can gather safely and facilitate social distancing per guidelines. The Church Council will be enlisting the expertise of the Property Board, the Board of Worship and Music, and Pastor Carl to work out details. We invite your ideas and suggestions. Please contact Clarence Korhonen, Property Board chair, Shirley Prouty, Worship and Music chair, or Pastor Carl to help with any input you might have.

I know these are difficult times for all of us, but God Is For Us and we will get through this all together. Thank you,

Carolyn Andrews
Council President
And
Your Sister in Christ

WHAT PASTOR CARL HAS BEEN UP TO (WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM MY FRIENDS!)

1. Because of hard work by Holly Hoppman and Rochelle Jaeger as well as growing participation by folks in the service, most importantly Jane Fanucci, we have been developing the weekly Sunday video worship services. My goal is to have it much like a regular Sunday service, but not longer than about 45 minutes. According to people I talk with who know about such things, folks tend to tune out after that. I have received many helpful suggestions about the service. The biggest one has been a real desire on the part of a lot of folks to have Holy Communion available each week. Although I don't have a way of knowing who all is viewing, I do know we have folks from Wisconsin to Honolulu viewing the services.
2. A Zoom video Bible study session started Tuesday morning, May 12. There are fourteen participants so far. I am very excited because folks like Marilyn Sodergren and Sylvia Kohler, who couldn't take part otherwise, are able to be a part of the group. Let me know if you are interested in joining us.
3. If response continues to be positive, I believe video worship and Bible study will be a part of congregational life for some even after we reopen.



4. Drive-Through prayer continues every Sunday thanks to Ron and Pat Webb and Ron and Cheryl Franklin who set up, direct traffic, and clean up. On Mother's Day we had forty -nine people come through. We are sharing in some important prayers. The Women's group

provided flowers for the women on Mother's Day. The Iretons provided snack bags the Sunday before that.

5. I have received a number of ideas and suggestions regarding reopening. They deal with cleaning, setting up for social distancing, how many services to have, how to have folks involved in leadership of the services, how to get folks in and out of worship, and related concerns. At the time of this writing, we don't have any guidelines from governmental agencies regarding how many people we can have gathering or when we can start gathering. So things continue on hold. I am including a statement below from the Synod regarding the situation. A task force is being put together to prepare for when we can reopen.

"In this very different time for our shared ministry, with each day bringing new challenges and opportunities for our work and witness. Online worship, meetings by Zoom, pastoral care offered over the phone, and baptisms, weddings and funerals that have had to be postponed are all a part of "figuring out" ministry these days.

Our advice regarding "re-opening" is the same as it was when these restrictions were enacted in March – we must adhere to all federal, state and local restrictions. These restrictions reflect our shared values of caring for the most vulnerable among us. The number of people who have been infected with COVID-

19 in this country, as well as the number of people who have died from this virus, continues to rise and people are still at risk. The advice of state authorities in California and Nevada continues to be against loosening these restrictions too soon, so that the spread of this disease will not be hastened by our impatience with social isolation. Please consult with local and state health officials before relaxing any social restrictions. It is important for us to remember there are lives at stake in these decisions.”—Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA

FOLLOW-UP TO MAY FINANCIAL REVIEW

In the May News and Views we discussed submitting a loan application and supporting documents to F&M Bank for a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program. The submittal was made on April 17, 2020 for a loan of \$25,000. As this program has evolved there have been various changes or more definitive guidance or information on how the loan amount is calculated and what qualifies under the loan forgiveness aspect of the program. Thus, after further negotiations with the bank, the amount of the loan offered to us in late April was \$10,279. On April 30 the loan application was resubmitted along with other loan documents and on May 4 the loan amount was deposited in the St Luke checking account.

Over the next eight weeks (through June 28) we will be documenting the spending of the loan amount on payroll and benefits as well as utility expenses that fall under this program. This documentation will be the basis for applying for total loan forgiveness at the completion of the eight weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Maki, Finance Board, or Carolyn Andrews, President.



MI CHAEL

Michael has done it again! In late April, Michael Duffek deep cleaned the Schultz Hall carpet. Thank you, Michael! This is the second year that Michael has cleaned the Schultz Hall carpet – a 2,800 square-foot space. It is a huge job. And it was worse this year because there were several deep stains, which required considerable labor to remove. In 2015 and 2017, the Property Board employed firms to clean the Schultz Hall carpet. The cost was about \$500 for each cleaning and the cleanings did not meet Michael’s standards. This year the Board budgeted \$1,000 for cleaning the Schultz Hall carpet. Money which now can go to other needed projects or to balance this year’s income and expenditures.

Michael, on behalf of the congregation, the Property Board thanks you again for your superb carpet cleaning efforts. It is much appreciated.

Clarence Korhonen, Chairperson
St. Luke’s Property Board





**21ST ANNUAL
FIREWORKS SALE
JUNE 28TH – JULY 4TH**

We're legal – we hit the big 21! Wow, seems like yesterday. We will have to do things differently this year – incorporate social-distancing and put other safety practices into use – but we're still here to do one thing – put smiles on faces of all who love fireworks to celebrate our nation's birth!

Our booth is located at the corner of Mack Road and Valley Hi Drive in the "old" Food Source parking lot. Funds raised are used for the many property board projects in and around the church. We need lots of volunteers so please consider all the ways you can help out. Here's some ideas: selling fireworks (sorry, you must be 18 or over), coming by and visiting, bringing snacks and drinks to share, helping to unload/load the truck each day, waving flags and banners to attract passersby, buying fireworks, and encouraging your friends and family to do the same! The booth opens at noon on June 28th, and then closes between 9 and 10p.m. through July 4th.

If you have any questions about the fireworks booth or about how you can help as a volunteer, just call or see me. We have a lot of fun every year (including Fireworks Booth Bingo), so don't miss out.

In His Name...

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Booth Committee Chair



**OF
MATTHEW'S
GOSPEL**

Many of the Sunday Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel. Matthew is, of course, one of four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew especially shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of so many Old Testament prophecies and promises. It is extremely helpful at a time like today because it shows how God's plan is a long-range plan for salvation and new life. Each part of the plan is important even if we can't make much sense out of it at the time. If you are having no trouble making sense of this time, you don't really need this study. Otherwise, please prayerfully consider joining me.

In about twenty sessions we will explore Matthew's Gospel and its message in depth. We will meet Tuesday's at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m. in my Zoom meeting room. Now don't freak out if Zoom intimidates you. It is the way we have to be together in study now. I would be happy to have personal Zoom meetings with you to make you comfortable with it before the class starts. It's like so much in life. Once you do it, it's not a big deal. You do need a smart phone, tablet, or computer. Talk with me about it, please, if you are hesitant.

Classes will start on Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 10. I do need to know if you are interested, and which day you prefer, because I will send you an invitation to join the study each week with the link to enter. Both groups will study the same material each week.

Please do pray about joining one of these groups. It will be a powerful and important study!

--Pastor Carl

women OF faith

On April 29, 2020, the W-ELCA Board had a Zoom Meeting to discuss the upcoming events for the rest of Spring and Summer. The following are decisions made by the Board:

June Bunco Event was cancelled for this year.

Summer Bible Study at church will be determined in June, it could be at the church with proper social distancing (if the church open) or may be a Zoom Bible Study. Though not a W-ELCA event, the event was discussed since W-ELCA does the set up and clean up for the event.

The Summer Mission Support: school supplies for Charles Mack Elementary and Parkway Elementary Schools.

- It was decided that no backpacks will be bought this year.
- Peggy reached out to the schools to see what supplies will be needed.
- Here are the supply needs that were indicated:
 - Copy Paper
 - Dry eraser markers
 - Small white boards for the students
 - Crayons
 - Glue Sticks
 - Pencils



September's Chicago Fire Lunch Meeting currently is on hold until we know what the restaurant(s) will be able to do in September. It was recommended that this be reviewed again in July when we have the next Board Meeting.

October Fall Festival was discussed, and as with our September luncheon we will review again at the July Board Meeting. The Board did feel we would be able to have some form of the Fall Festival if groups of any size are able to get together at that time.

During this time of social distancing I know our Church Family has had to adjust as we go. But for me I remind myself all the time "God is in control." "Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6.

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser,
WELCA President



PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

Members and friends of St. Luke's have given generously to the Pastoral Assistance Fund, especially the last several months. If you find yourself in a financial challenge, please contact me and we will help as much as we can. Thanks to all who have given to this important fund to help fellow members of our church family through this difficult time. — Pastor Carl



**Mother's Day Drive Thru
W-ELCA provided flowers to all the
women who came.**

**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.**

Class of 2020



Lizzy Lynch

Colorado State University

Masters of Science Organizational Leadership
with a specialization in Strategic Innovation
and Change Management

Jordan Perry

Juan Diego Catholic High School
Graduating with honors and is a mentor and a
student ambassador.

He is going to Dixie State University to begin his
studies for dentistry.

Grandson of Kelly Boyer.
We are very proud



Alexi Oja

Western Sierra

Granddaughter of Betty Englund

Class of 2020



Gage Gadreault

promoting to the 9th grade at
Rocklin High School
Son of Ronny (dad) & Megan Gadreault
and Rachelle (mom) Gadreault



Micayla Shower

Adelante High School

She is enrolled at Sierra College for now but has plans to attend UC Davis and work towards something in the Animal Sciences such as a Marine Biologist or a Veterinarian

Daughter of Megan (mom) &
Ronny Gadreault and the late
Chris Shower (dad)

Bekka Roberts

promoting to the 7th grade at
Toby Johnson Middle School

Daughter of Renee & Jeremy Roberts



Class of 2020



Alexander Iniguez

Graduating from Kindergarten
Bradshaw Christian School

Coraline Rose Beck

Micro Elementary School in North Carolina
She wants to be a princess when she grows up.
Granddaughter of Linda Fergurson



Samuel Hromada

North City Kindergarten Program, WA
Grandson of Brenda Sulzmann



Class of 2020



Hannah Encinas

Monterey Trail High School.

She will attend CRC for the fall semester.

Zoe Sodergren

Pinkerton Middle School.

She will attend Cosumnes Oaks High School in the fall



A nnika Sodergren

Amador High School in Pleasanton.

She will attend University of Santa Clara



Class of 2020



William Alan Adamski

B.S from Carroll University in Milwaukee, WI.

He studied Business and Finance. He is heading up to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in Northern Minnesota for the summer, where he will be working at an outfitter on the historic Gunflint Trail.

Nephew of Suzanne and Mark Zemke

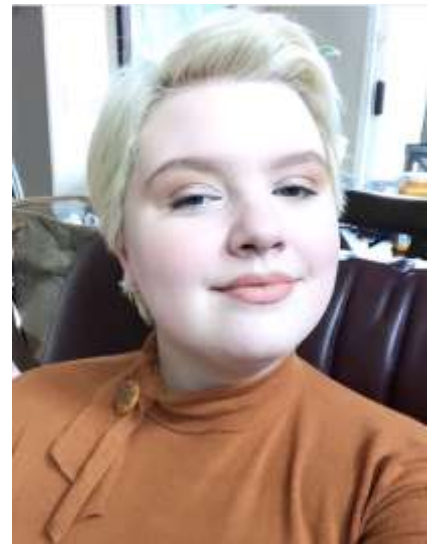
Morgan Delaney Furry

Laguna Creek HS in Elk Grove

She will be attending Fall classes online at American River College to obtain her degree in Mortuary Science.

We are very proud of her achievements throughout HS particularly in the Drama Dept as stage manager and costume manager for several years and high achievement in French language.

Her Grandfather and I are so sad that her Graduation year is ending with a Pandemic but know she will overcome it and will continue being the loving, caring and beautiful Granddaughter we love so much. We are so proud of you! Love, David and Judy Saxby



Class of 2020



Adalyn Rae Kiser

Bradshaw Christian School

Plans for next year: Moving on up to 1st grade at Bradshaw Christian School. Adalyn would like to thank her family and church family for all of their love and support!

Nolan Jaeger

Ellen Feickert Elementary

When he grows up he wants to be a Monster Truck Driver.



"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."

-unknown

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

April 2020

(Note: Normal church worship services and other activities were suspended beginning March 18, which significantly affected the data in this report.)

Comments:

- The entire month of April was affected by the coronavirus “stay-at-home” orders.
- The “shutdown” has taken its toll on St. Luke’s offerings. In rough terms, both the monthly offerings and the year-to-date totals are under the adopted Budget by 10 percent.
- Also, when compared to 2019, the monthly offering and year-to-date are each lagging about 10 plus percent.
- You can now make contributions electronically (online), in addition to the conventional means. For details, see last month’s issue of News & Views.
- 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	\$17,656	\$64,668
Compared to Budget	-\$1,922	-\$6,488
	-9.8%	-9.1%
Compared to 2019	-\$2,415	-\$7,700
	-12.0%	-10.6%
No. of Contributors		
2020 (Current Year)	61	67 avg.
2019 (Last Year)	86	80 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Lenten Offering (coin folders) <i>Designated for Pastoral Assistance</i>		\$190
Memorials		\$640
Special Gift (Pastoral Assistance)		\$500
Youth Fund		\$120
Offset Processing Fees		\$18

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



Karen Cagle	June 01
Phillip Connell	June 03
Phillip Petersen	June 03
Laura Sondrini	June 07
Elizabeth Wilson	June 08
Peggy Moser	June 15
Caliana Osako	June 20
Shirley Prouty	June 21
John Orcutt	June 22
Cannon Thomas	June 23
Gabriel (Gabby) Cox	June 26
Stan Niemi	June 26
Morgan Furry	June 28
Paul Edwards	June 29

Death in Our Congregation



Don Englund died Thursday, May 21st and was taken by his Good Shepherd, Jesus, to the heavenly kingdom where he will rejoice for eternity in the presence of his Lord and those who have gone before him. In our time, we will join him in the heavenly feast of the saints of God. Please give thanks for Don's life with us and the new life he has been given. Please uphold Betty and the family in prayer, that they are held tightly in the loving embrace of the Lord as they grieve.



Norene Schell died Sunday, May 17th and went to be with her loving Lord and those who have gone before her into the heavenly kingdom. Please give thanks for her life among us and the new life she has with Jesus and the heavenly host for eternity. Services will be planned at a later date.



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