



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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August

2020

NEWS AND VIEWS

Pastoral Perspective



It has been said that when death comes close to us we understand it for the first time. As Christians we say further, when death comes close to us we realize how vital our relationship with Jesus really is.

In the pursuits of life—growing up, earning a living, maintaining a home, raising a family—death may not come near us for years. The passing of acquaintances reminds us that death is around, but at some distance from us personally. Resurrection is God's known promise, but it seems removed from day to day experience. That has all changed these last months. We can't help but face the reality and the nearness of death.

Things changed very quickly for Jairus, the Synagogue ruler we meet in Mark 5:21-43. He was doing fine and then his daughter became very ill. Then it happened. His daughter reached a crisis. Little life was left in her weak body. The color of death was on her face. "What can I do?" In gut wrenching agony he could hear his heart thumping within him. "What hope is there?" Death was very near.

"Jesus! Jesus from Nazareth, maybe he is the answer. I have heard how he taught at the synagogue. All who heard him were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. Jesus! Jesus from Nazareth, maybe he will help us." When Jairus heard that Jesus was coming, he

had to be there. Jairus anxiously made his way through the great crowd. "There he is. I must speak to him!" Jairus fell at his feet and pleaded with Jesus, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands of her, so she may be made well, and live." And Jesus went with him.

Another circumstance of need interrupted their way to Jairus' house. Jairus must have wanted to pull Jesus away. But Jesus healed a hemorrhaging woman and commended her for the sincerity of her faith. In the meantime all life had left the daughter of Jairus. A sad courier faced Jairus. "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher any further?" Jairus stood in shock. Then somehow he heard Jesus' say "Do not fear, only believe." They turned together and continued to Jairus' home—Jesus, Jairus, and three disciples.

When they got there they heard the loud grieving lament. Jesus asked, "Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." They laughed at Jesus, laughed at him about whom they had heard so much. They knew the girl was gone. Then Jesus ushered them all out. Taking Jairus, the girl's mother, and the three disciples, he went into the child's still room. Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Little girl, I say to you arise." And immediately the girl got up. Those there were overcome with amazement. What a miracle! It was a miracle that could only be done by one who had authority even over death.

The raising of Jairus' daughter has much to say to us now that death is so frightfully near. This miracle tells us that, in Jesus, there is a new dimension, a new force

at work in the world that is more powerful even than death. For those who welcome what they have not earned, yet have yearned for, there is new life, joy, and peace. The promised new age has arrived in Jesus. We live in this new age. The light of God's love that makes lives whole for eternity has come into the world.

The raising of this girl is a forerunner of Easter. It shows us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus, not even death itself. With the reality of death so close to us now, remember Jesus' words to Jairus. They are meant for us too. "Do not fear, only believe." Believing in Jesus, we and our loved ones are safe in his loving arms now and for eternity.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



Community Concerns again this year will be leading a Summer Mission Project – School Supplies 4 Kids!

This year due to the pandemic the project will only include collecting school supplies (graciously provided by the congregation). The collections will take place through July, with being able to deliver the supplies in August to Charles Mack Elementary and Parkway Elementary Schools. A bin will be placed out on Sunday during the Drive through Prayers (9:30 am to 11:00 am) for collection of the school supplies. Thanks for your help with this mission.

Following are School Supplies Requested by the Schools:

- Small white boards for the students
- Copy Paper
- Dry eraser markers
- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Pencils



women^{OF}faith



On Wednesday, July 15, 2020 the W-ELCA Board meet to discuss the Fall Events.

Reviewed:

June/July/August -

- Summer Bible Study
- Pastor doing the weekly Zoom Classes.
- Classes both Tuesday morning (10:00AM) and Wednesday evening (7:00PM)
- School supplies being collected on Sunday morning during Drive-thru-Prayers. Collections to be done through August.

September – **Cancelled** Luncheon

October –

- Fall Festival – CANCELLED
- Due to the concerns for both our guest and workers this event was cancelled.
- Please note we are not collecting any White Elephant items this year since we will not be having the event. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY ITEAMS TO THE CHURCH.
- W-ELCA Meeting: There will be a W-ELCA Meeting on the second Saturday, October 10,2020 at 11:30 am. We are planning to have it in the park area where we will be able to conform to social distancing and eat our own sack lunches. If weather does not permit us to use the park we will meet in the Schultz Hall. So please mark your calendars for this change in October.

November –
We will have our Thanksoffering Service, November 22, 2020. More information will be coming as we draw near to November.

December –
Plans are in the making to look into providing presents to Families in need. More information will be coming.

New Business:

Ice Machine: The Board talked about the request from the Property Board on the needs for replacing the current Ice Machine in the Kitchen that has broken. The W-ELCA board had a few suggesting:

- Re-visit this need again in October, they did not

see a current immediate need to replace the machine, but want to keep the options open till October when it can be re-visited.

- Members of the Board at the meeting did favor that a purchase of an Upright Freezer that is Frost Free be purchased instead of an ice machine. This purchase would allow the freezer to be used for more than just ice.

We are also looking for other W-ELCA members suggestions on the needs for or against an ice machine that can be provided to the Property Board. Thanks in advance for your input.

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser,
WELCA President



Women's Board Meeting





21ST ANNUAL FIREWORKS SALE

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

... and they whooped and hollered!

Wow, 21 years and finally legal! And getting better with age – even in this era of COVID. We were blest with an abundance of goodwill and fellowship again this year – and Great Weather again – no days above 97 degrees!

There was the usual cadre 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, or who spread the word to family and friends to stop on by and visit us. We all had a great time!

On the sales side, we exploded this year. Every day set a new high sales total. Instead of our normal sales of around \$27,000, we were totally sold out by 5pm on the 4th and our sales total was \$46,000! With everyone feeling the blues after so long in quarantine, customers were ready for some family fun with fireworks!

After paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, assorted sundries, and permits), we'll put over... drum roll please...\$16,760 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.

A loud shout-out goes to all the wonderful folks who brought us food this year. We had great pizza, fish, salads, fruit, brownies, cookies, cakes, donuts, popcorn, chips, and other snacks.

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. Even with face masks on. That's the best part, the fellowship and fun we share with our neighbors and friends. And finally, an extra shout-out to my faithful team of volunteers and visitors – Dorothy, Ron, Pat, Peggy, Al, Carol, Jack, Micki, Bruce, Karen, Marlene, Jeff, Paul, Bob, Carolyn, Kelly, Jacob, Faith, Jim, Brenda, Phillip, Jennifer, Daniel, Mariah, Karen, Shirley, LaJuan, Elizabeth, Edgar, Alana, Grayson, JD, Gabby, Cathy, Greg, Scott, Betty, Lisa, Pat, Mary Francis, Jesse, Katie, Benjamin, Alexander, Jesse, Rochelle, Addison, Nolan, Clarence, Steven, Inna, Amber, Heather, Verna, Connie, Judy, Lois, Matthew, Allison, Megan, Sarah, Justin, Laura, Millie, Gail, 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



Taken previous year.



Fireworks
Fun

BOON



IN-PERSON WORSHIP SURVEY RESPONSES AS OF JULY 13



In June I asked members and friends of St. Luke's to indicate their current feeling about their probable worship practices during the remainder of 2020. Here are the responses. If you haven't responded yet, I invite you to let me know at carlhoppman@gmail.com what you probably plan to do once we have in-person worship.

Pastor Carl

For the remainder of 2020, once we have in-person worship, I plan to usually:

attend in-person worship: 26

worship at home (using the worship service posted on the website): 5

It depends on:

"Only will attend in person if the Governor and Dr. Fauci deemed it safe – and only if masks are required by ALL attendees!! Otherwise I will continue viewing online!! I do not want the members of our congregation to connect with anyone who can infect them!! Also, temps should be taken!!"

"For the remainder of 2020, once we have in-person worship, I plan to usually attend if in-person worship is defined as no longer any restrictions to wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart."

"It all depends on the virus and whether we would feel safe inside the church"

"It would depend on the processes in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. I.e. requiring masks, not one physically interacting (greeting, etc.

sometimes when it's optional it still feels expected and can be perceived as rude if I don't want to shake hands/hug/etc)."

"We would plan to attend the 8:15 a.m. service each Sunday. Maybe a few later worshipers would switch and ease the number at the second service. With face masks, I see no problem with singing and in person services. Maybe we could just tape the 2nd service for the recorded internet worship and cut down on your workload and have congregational backup for your solo singing (you have a very nice voice)."

"It depends on the COVID-19 situation. Fall/Winter they're saying expect to see even more cases than what we've already seen. The other deciding factor would be if handbell choir is also allowed to resume at some point in 2020."

"It depends on location of the worship service – if in St. Luke's Sanctuary, then we would attend; if elsewhere, we would watch the service online. Situation is currently too uncertain to make decisions to end of year."

"It depends on what the Covid virus numbers are at the time St. Luke's opens for worship. I'm anxious to get back to regular worship but know it won't be the same as before with hugs and handshakes."

"For me, it depends on how busy I am, whether I'm ushering or not, etc. For my wife, she would probably stay away until everything gets back to normal."

"It depends on what my daughter does."

"I'm not sure at this point, because the numbers seem to be going back up. I really want to worship in-person, but I have some reservations."

"I can't answer because I'm in between. Too soon for in person service but as soon as the numbers

go down, vaccine is available, I'll be back in person with bells on!!"

"I'm with the two previous responders. There's nothing I want more than to be with my St. Luke's family in person BUT I certainly don't want to come back too soon."

"Ditto what the previous three responders said."

"I like the idea of outside service until we can be inside."

"As much as I want to attend, I have to be careful for awhile yet."

"Suggestion is for outside service in the grass area start 9am until October. Then move into Schultz Hall."

"Web Services have actually been a blessing for me since I don't get out much, restricted driving because of my eyesight."

**LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF OUR
SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR
IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND
NORTHERN NEVADA CONGREGATIONS**

Dear Members and Friends of our Sierra Pacific Synod,

Blessings as we celebrate the Fourth of July, remembering that while the blessings of liberty are being celebrated, there are many who have yet to fully realize the safety, freedom and justice that was the hope of this country's founding.

During this time of Pandemic, I have received a number of inquiries about guidelines for worship

and other activities in our congregations. I ask that we continue to be guided by three principles when it comes to questions of "re-opening:"

1. Care for the most vulnerable among us – people in groups which the CDC has listed as being more susceptible to infection. This includes those who would be asked to lead services – pastors, musicians, worship assistants, etc. Churches have been shown to be places where transmission of COVID-19 from person to person has happened.

2. State and local guidelines – recently, new guidelines and orders have been issued by the States of California and Nevada that are restricting activities which had previously been allowed. The numbers of people who are testing positive each day are rising at an alarming rate and many health experts are predicting the rates will rise even higher in the next few months.

3. Our trust and belief that our gracious God is present in on-line worship – I continue to be thankful for the creativity and intentionality our congregations are demonstrating in the online worship services which are being offered. Thank you for this faithful witness that is connecting with people in our communities with whom we had not connected before!

As mentioned above, new state guidelines in California (there are similar guidelines in Nevada as well) now include:

1. The discontinuing of singing (*in rehearsals, services, etc.*), chanting and other practices and performance where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets.

2. Places of worship should continue to provide services through alternative methods such as via internet and/or recorded streaming, telephone, etc.

3. Required use of masks/face coverings for both members of the public and workplace settings where there is a high risk of exposure and at all times when in crowded areas.

I invite you to carefully consider the following as pastors and leaders of our congregations wondering about when and how we might re-open for in-person worship:

*Dr. Michael Osterholm, a member of the ELCA and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, told NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday that he does not believe the coronavirus pandemic in the United States will ease over the summer or in the fall. Dr. Osterholm countered that he believes a second or third wave of coronavirus is unlikely because the first wave has yet to slow down. "I'm actually of the mind right now — I think this is more like a forest fire. I don't think that this is going to slow down," he said. "Wherever there's wood to burn, this fire is going to burn, and right now we have a lot of susceptible people." Dr. Osterholm added that he does not think the influenza model of multiple waves applies to the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. "Right now, I don't see this slowing down through the summer or into the fall. I don't think we're going to see one, two and three waves. I think we're just going to see one very, very difficult forest fire of cases."**

The image of a forest fire should not be lost on us. We have endured multiple years of fires that have devastated many communities throughout our synod's territory. The statements above are a stark and cautionary warning for us not to assume we can take risks where COVID-19 is concerned. Therefore, it is my strong recommendation, given the recent rise in infection rates in both California and Nevada and the solemn warnings of state and county officials and scientists like Dr. Osterholm, that ***we should be prepared not to return to in-person worship before the end of September.***

Thank you for considering this recommendation,

and for the continuing work you are doing to care for the most vulnerable among us. Your steadfast and faithful service and leadership in this time have been an example to the communities we serve. I wish you God's blessings, peace and hope as we continue to move forward in ministry together.

Peace,
Bishop Mark Holmerud
July 3, 2020

*AXIOS – June 21, 2020 -- Health



Bishop Mark Holmerud



SLY Meet Up July 18th



HAPPY 91st BIRTHDAY

🍰 Al Boschee 🍰



FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

June 2020

- a. This month's comparisons to June 2019 are extremely skewed because a large, one-time contribution was received last year in June. Notwithstanding, the monthly contributions received this month are considerably less than what is required to support the mission of St. Luke's.
- b. This month's larger concerns are that the YTD figures are below Budget and the 2019 figures, and the number of unique monthly contributors dropped considerably in June.
- c. The entire month of June was affected by the coronavirus "stay-at-home" orders.
- d. You can now make contributions electronically (online), in addition to the conventional means. For details, go to St. Luke's website www.slelca.org and click on the "Giving" heading for details.
- e. In July, a mid-year contribution statement will be distributed to each contributing member. If you do not receive a statement, contact me.
- f. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske
 St. Luke's Financial Secretary
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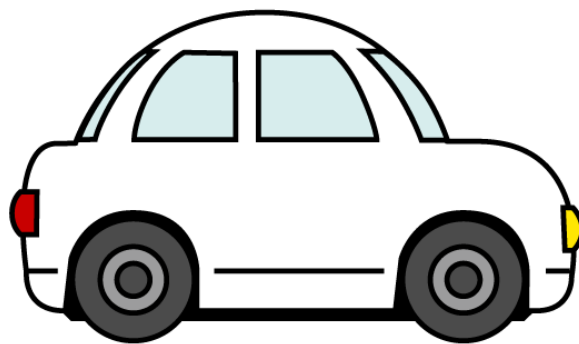
General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Contributions	\$11,380	\$93,978	
Compared to Budget	-\$7,762	-\$13,891	
	-40.5%	-12.9%	
Compared to 2019	-\$14,639	-\$22,964	
	-56.3%	-19.6%	
No. of Contributors			
2020 (Current Year)	51	64	avg.
2019 (Last Year)	80	80	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Memorials		\$75	

Note: Plus values are above Budget/Last Year; minus values are below.





Lois Sherrets	August 01	Kristen Encinas	August 18
Lydia Toloy	August 03	George Zipay	August 18
Ralph Zbrog	August 03	Craig Richey	August 20
Genece Reich	August 04	Angie Martinez	August 21
Theodore Orcutt	August 06	Angelo Osako	August 21
Alexander Iniguez	August 07	Aiyana Tice	August 22
Irene Boschee	August 08	Zoe Franklin	August 23
Linda Duffek	August 10	Mack Vance	August 23
Stephanie Espinoza	August 11	Shirley Zipay	August 23
Amber Mansfield	August 16	Carolyn Andrews	August 27
Kay Yakabe	August 16	Jack Orcutt	August 29
		Faith Thomas	August 31



**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.**



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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