



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News and Views

Pastoral Perspective



Several times, Jesus tells folks he heals, "Your faith has made you well." I would like here to explore the power faith releases that allows for the wellness to which Jesus refers. What Jesus is pointing out with the statement, "Your faith has made you well", is that we possess a great power

potential. Jesus says that if we have the faith to free this power potential we experience amazing things. Yet it is hard to believe that Jesus means what He says when we so often don't realize we have this power potential. But really, whenever we give ourselves over to Jesus' loving care, whenever we exercise faith, we are unleashing this power potential whether we realize it or not. We are making a commitment of trust that opens a tremendous channel for Jesus' power to flow into us and through us.

Think about it this way. When you trust someone or have faith in them, you are giving them power. First, you are giving them power to do as they see fit in the situation. But you are giving them power in an even more significant way. When you show confidence in someone, that person becomes more powerful because of your faith in them. For example, when you are trying to help someone who has little confidence or trust or faith in you, don't you feel weakened by that? But when you are really trusted by someone in a situation, don't you feel a kind of expansion, a lifting of barriers, a sense that you can accomplish whatever needs to be done. What has happened is that someone's faith in you has released a power with which you can do great

things. If that is true for our relationships with one another, how much truer is it when we put our trust in Jesus.

Let's consider this reality even deeper. If you put your trust in someone or something, where does that power go? It goes to the other person or thing. What it can accomplish depends on them. But why place your faith in Jesus? Why not place your faith in money or technology? When your trust is in the money you have or the technology that can be made use of on your behalf, you might get something out of it, but it is quite limited. There is no consciousness to truly unleash the power potential and the payback is pretty restricted. It can give out at any time. Why not put all your faith in another person? It is fine to have faith in others, but that needs to always be limited. No matter how good that person might be, there are shortcomings or inability to see the whole picture that will restrict the amount of power available for the situation. Why not put all your faith in yourself? What will that deliver? Well, it depends on you. It has been shown again and again we have a tremendous power potential within ourselves. Why not focus on unleashing that rather than put our faith in something or someone else. Again, our own shortcomings or inability to see the whole picture will restrict the power available for the situation.

The challenge is to find something or someone to give our faith. There is only one who has no shortcomings, who can see the whole picture. His name is Jesus. He came into this world to receive your faith and unleash the power of abundant life in all situations. When you give your faith to Jesus,

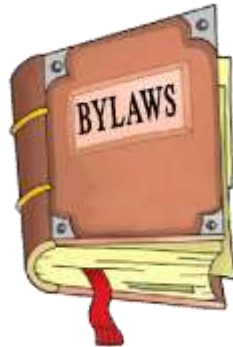
tremendous power flows into us and through us that can truly handle anything.

Try it with whatever situation you are now facing. Certainly, money and technology might help with the situation somewhat. Other people can be helpful as well. You can certainly help yourself. But put your trust in Jesus to truly understand the whole situation and carry you through in His boundless love. There is a power unleashed that will not fail. He will see you through every situation of life and carry you finally to life eternal.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVISION

As addressed in the October News & Views, the ballots for voting to accept or reject the updates to the Constitution and Bylaws were mailed to voting members on October 1. As a reminder, we request ballots be returned in the enclosed envelope by November 1. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Bob Behr at 916-686-5299.



worship service. All the details have not been worked out, but we are hoping to have things up and ready for in-person worship soon. This is a work in progress, but currently we know that, in order to adhere to State and County guidelines, masks must be worn; attendees will be screened for any Covid-19 related symptoms, and their temperatures will be taken. And, of course, social distancing (6 feet) will be observed. The church doors will have to remain open for good air circulation.



As you are all aware, Pastor Carl and Holly will be leaving us at the end of the year. We are looking for someone to take over the soundboard operation duties. Holly is willing to train. If you are interested in this rewarding position, please contact Holly. The plans are to continue the online worship service, until the end of the year, which is available for viewing on the Church's webpage. If the online



worship service is wanted or needed after year end, we will need a videographer. Please contact Pastor Carl or Holly for more information and training on the videographer position.

I am so looking forward to seeing each of you on a Sunday morning real soon.

Remember: Wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance,

Christ's Servants

Carolyn Andrews
Council President
And
Shirley Prouty
Taskforce Chair



GOOD NEWS!!!

First and foremost, I am hoping everyone is doing well. Staying healthy and safe is an important issue for all of us.

I wanted to pass on some good and exciting news about in-person worship. Sacramento County has moved into the Red Tier 2, which means we can open for "INDOOR" operations with restrictions. The Task Force has been informed and they are currently working to get the sanctuary ready for in-person



Thank you for your generous support of ongoing concerns in our community. The Elk Grove Food bank was very appreciative of the 55 pounds of food you, as members and friends of St. Luke, donated.

Using the tithes from the Crab Feed and Fireworks Booth fundraisers, Chicks in Crisis, Elk Grove Food Bank, Union Gospel, and St. John's Women's Shelter will each receive \$250.00.



We are collecting socks for Loaves & Fishes and Union Gospel Ministry. Socks are the most needed and the least donated item to shelters.

New socks can be dropped off during Sunday's Drive-through Prayer or contact Merle Zbrog for pick up.



Due to the current pandemic, we have had to rethink our usual holiday giving. This year, we are collecting \$5.00 gift cards from fast food chains. The gift cards will be distributed to those in need in our local community. You can bring cards as you attend Sunday's Drive-through Prayer, you can drop them in the mail slot at the church, or you can call to arrange a pickup. Please have the cards at the church no later than December 13, 2020. Would you like to participate in the distribution of the cards? Contact Linda Duffek or Cathy Davis and we will add you to our group.



women OF faith



It's November already, The W-ELCA Board had another short meeting on October 3, to discuss the rest of 2020 as far as we can tell.

When you receive this News & View there will already been the Free/ Donation White Elephant event on October 17, so the donated items that had already been brought to the church before the cancelation of the Fall

Festival could be given away (or a donation is one is inclined to give one). We needed to not be storing these items at the church. Please see the separate article by Carol Carney on the event.

Second discussed was the November Thanks Offering Service. This service will take place either in-person if Sacramento County is allowing in-person worship services at that time, or by webex if in-person is not allowed.

This is a special event and we are all looking forward to it.

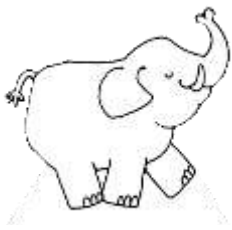


More will come in November as we get closer to Sunday, November 22.

The third discussion was on the Christmas Family Collection and the W-ELCA Christmas Party. In November we will checking again on who in the community is doing what for families in need and see if we can help in some way. The Christmas Party will depend on what is allowed in Sacramento County. It was discussed if are able to have it that we should be doing some type of box lunch. More to come in the December News & View.

Most importantly W-ELCA has 2 vacancies that will need to be filled in January. With the departure of Triss Hoppman W-ELCA is looking for a Treasure and a Chairperson for the Comfort Committee. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would be interested in being part of a great group of women.

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser,
WELCA President



WHITE ELEPHANT GIVEAWAY

During the October 3, 2020 WELCA board meeting it was decided to have a free, with donations accepted, White Elephant Sale. As everyone knows we asked for White Elephants to be donated for our Annual Fall Festival and as usual, before it became evident that we would not be able to have the sale, the generosity of our wonderful member's, donations started arriving. It was then determined that the Fall Festival would be cancelled and items could not be stored at the church until this time next year. We certainly thank all of you for your donations and we now have some money for Benevolence giving!

What a true blessing it turned out to be, for our church - not all about money but reaching out to our community at a time when it is most needed! Saturday, October 17, at 9:00pm some of us had put out all of the donations on many tables and



elsewhere in the back of Schultz Hall. All who came were so very thankful, practiced being safe and caring about each other.



We thank Peggy Moser for her incredible help and all of you who helped in anyway especially our Property Board Members who are always there for us. Jack Fenske and Bruce Kiser did so much and they are greatly appreciated. We also thank Linda Duffek, Dorothy Haney, Faith Thomas, Gail Webber and Judy's daughter for helping get everything set up and those that stayed to clean up. We thank Katie Iniguez for helping with advertisement. We all hope and pray that next year will be better and we can do more to reach out to the less fortunate.

May God Bless All Of You!
With Love & Appreciation -
Carol Carney - Judy Saxby - Co-Chairs.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN FORGIVENESS

As you may recall St Luke obtained a loan from our bank in late April 2020 under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Part of this program provided for forgiveness of the loan if certain parameters were met. The Finance Board is happy to report that the PPP loan was forgiven in full providing helpful aid in allowing the fulfillment of our financial commitments.





As many of you know, Ron and I have moved to Hot Springs, AR to be near Ron's Mom, Dorothy and his brother, Don. We wish to thank all the wonderful members of our church family for their love and support for so many years. We take with us beautiful memories and long-lasting friendships.

We especially want to thank everyone for the surprise parking lot car parade, cards, prayers, emails, and best wishes as we begin our new adventure. A special thanks to Pauline Arndt for making a card for everyone to sign that day. We are so blessed to have been a part of such a loving, caring congregation who, under Pastor Carl's spirit-filled leadership, has worked together to spread the Good News, serve those in need and share the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Thank you!

We will always be a part of St. Lukes. This is not goodbye—all of you will always be in our hearts and prayers. Not being able to give everyone big hugs was SO HARD. We look forward to a time when all of us can safely hug and share with each other again.

We will stay in touch. Don't be surprised to see us joining the Zoom Bible studies even with the time difference! Once we are settled and people can safely travel again, we would love to share

beautiful Hot Springs with you. Our door will always be open.

Until we find our new home, our temporary mailing address will be 221 Ridge One Circle, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

Please keep us in your prayers as the Lord leads us on this new path in our lives.

God's blessings,
Ron and Pat



FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

September 2020

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

- The figures display the impact of the declining number of contributors, caused (in part) by the coronavirus shutdown.
- With three-fourths of the year passed, a comparison of the Year-To-Date figures show a 12.0 percent shortfall from the adopted Budget and a 14.4 percent decline from 2019.
- 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.
- 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	\$15,483	\$141,645	
Compared to Budget	-\$5,436	-\$19,252	
	-26.0%	-12.0%	
Compared to 2019	-\$8,169	-\$23,811	
	-34.5%	-14.4%	
No. of Contributors			
2020 (Current Year)	55	62	avg.
2019 (Last Year)	74	76	avg.
Other Contributions			
Special Gift (Gift Card to Homeless)		\$25	
Youth Fund (Recycling Cash)		\$20	

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

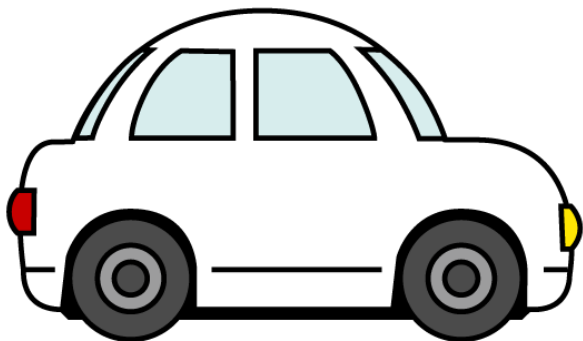




Hannah Encinas	November 06
Andrew Harrison	November 07
Judy Saxby	November 10
Julie Ireton	November 14
Marc Thomas	November 15
Alison Korhonen-Kerian	November 16
Christine Herndon	November 19
Micki Fenske	November 27
Carl Hoppman	November 27
Mark Encinas	November 29
Dax Moser	November 30



Al and Irene Boschee will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on November 5th



**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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Sacramento, CA 95823

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