



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
 (916) 421-5039
www.slelca.org
office@slelca.org
Pastor Carl Hoppman
carlhoppman@gmail.com



2021



Pastoral Perspective



As more people are receiving shots to protect themselves and their families from the virus, we are seeing the number of people affected going down to the point we have made plans to open with proper safety in place. The plan includes providing separation between

families and between individual worshipers. We have enough seating to make that an easy task. We have a gifted congregation to design worship and music with appropriate caution that continues to have choir music shared outside and through other ways to keep the gathering a safe one for all, especially our senior membership. We will also have temperature checks as people come in to insure, a safe atmosphere where all can worship. We will also not pass an offering plate. An offering plate will be available as people come in for your offerings. We want to be as cautious as we can for the benefit of everyone. We have a large sanctuary so it should give us the opportunity to have our normal size worship gathering. Our council is looking forward to a safe return on March 7th. Please pray for us as we can gather back together in the blessed community God has given us to serve.

God's love and peace.
 Pastor Ron Zoesch

CHURCH TRANSITION PROCESS AND SANCTUARY REOPENING UPDATE



Nearly a year ago, March 17, 2020 to be exact, based on the recommendation of the CDC, The Governor's Office and Sierra Pacific Synod the Church's Council voted to suspend indoor worship services for one month. We chose at our April 14, 2020 monthly meeting to readdress the situation. At that April meeting the decision was made to suspend indoor worship services indefinitely, due to the recommendations of the before mentioned agencies and Synod.

At the May Council meeting a task force was formed to prepare for reopening the church, as soon as, we received the go ahead. We waited and waited, but the go ahead to reopen the church did not materialize because COVID-19 was out of control.

In September, Pastor Carl announced he would be retiring at the end of the year. That news was devastating, to say the least. It was at that time the church's transition really began. In October, Pastor Carl performed confirmations for several of our young people and we began making plans to request assistance from the Synod. Pastor Carl preached his last sermon and did drive-through

prayer on December 27, 2020. Pastor Ron Zoesch agreed to provide us with ministerial support until we were able to contract an Interim Pastor. Our drive-through prayer and video worship services have continued.

Council met with Bishop Mark Holmerud and Pastor Bill Wong, from the Synod, in November to discuss what was next on our transition journey.

In 2020 we were unable to meet in-person for our Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck. Council voted to handle the meeting via mail. It went well. Voting members of the Congregation were sent an explanation letter and a ballot. The proposed budget was approved, the Constitution/By-Laws received ratification and two new council members were elected.

On January 7, 2021 Pastor Wong provided us with the name of an Interim Pastor candidate, Pastor William Wessner (Pastor Bill). Council interviewed Pastor Bill on January 13, 2021. The interview went well. The Interim Pastor will provide for all our ministerial needs and assist us with the call process. Please continue to be in prayer for our church, and that this process continues to go smoothly.

Thank you for your continued support. I am so looking forward to seeing most, if not all of you soon. Please continue to be safe, washing your hands, wearing your mask and social distancing,

Peace, Grace, and Love,
Your Sister in Christ,

Carolyn Andrews
Council President

NOTE: If you would like more information on this transition process, here is the Synod link...

https://spselca.org/assts/uploads/2019/07/SPS-Transitions-Manual_v3a.pdf



PLEASE JOIN COUNCIL IN
WELCOMING our INTERIM PASTOR,
effective March 1, 2021:
PASTOR WILLIAM (BILL) WESSNER



Pastor Bill and his wife Susan

Some of you may be asking, what is an Interim Pastor and what does he or she do? Well, Pastor Bill will be here for us. Guiding us through this transition and making sure our ministerial needs are met. Look in this issue for a copy of our contract with Pastor Bill, that addresses what to expect during this interim period. It may answer some of the questions, I am sure some of you may have. Let us give God thanks and praise for allowing us to form this partnership.

Peace,
Carolyn Andrews
Council President



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR' BILL 'INTERIM

Grace and peace sisters and brothers, friends, apostles, labors in the vineyard, servants, saints... at St Luke's. Though I am just beginning to meet you I know you as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. It shows!

When St Paul wrote to the Romans, he wrote to people he had not met, yet he knew them well in Jesus Christ. As I write this I recognize you as people always being transformed by the saving power of our Lord. You long for and actively seek to be disciples, apostles, especially in a time between Pastors, a time that is can seem disruptive. A time of stepping out of the past and being called into the future. A transitional time we give the grand title: "today."

We are all quite aware of the many transitions happening in our world, our nation and day by day our local communities. In the midst of these times St Luke's we add one more, and I am grateful that your Church Council has invited me into this time with you.

I have met your staff and council and leadership. But we are just beginning to know each other.

Join me in gratitude for the faithful and diligent work of Carolyn Andrews and your Church Council, Finance and Worship Teams for their careful listening with you, their discernment and timely action, as well as our Sierra Pacific Synod staff, especially Pastor Bill Wong, for insight and support, aligning an Interim from the rostered leaders available. My thanks also to you the St Luke's membership for being the Church of Christ in this place and your willingness to step up quickly and boldly in calling me here for this interim.

Many thanks to Rochelle Jaeger for the office work and bringing me up to speed with the rhythm of this congregation from bulletins to worship insights, prayers and concerns, to introductions and more.

I look forward to listening with you and discovering where we have been, how we are connected, and who we are to become as people gathered in Christ at St Luke's in this time of transition. Feel free to contact me at PastorBillSLelca@gmail.com, or at 916-562-3564, a local number for cell calls and text messages.

Returning your invitation to be your Interim Pastor, I invite you to come and practice our discipleship in Christ together. Grateful to be in the journey with you!

Peace

Pastor Bill

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR CONTRACT

This is a 2/3-time position*, beginning March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 (the budget cycle date), in accordance with the following promises and on the terms set forth in this Letter of Service (the "Covenant"):

1. Together the Congregation and Intentional Interim Pastor will:

- 1.1 Share in the mission given by Christ, which involves the whole people of God.
- 1.2 Engage in ministry as we celebrate God's presence, experience renewal through the gospel, give witness to Jesus Christ, and provide care, fellowship and support for one another.
- 1.3 Call forth leadership and equip our people for ministry, in order to meet the challenges and opportunities presented us in the Congregation and the community.

1.4 Receive the Word of God as revealed in the Old and New Testaments and witnessed to by the Lutheran Confessions.

1.5 Subscribe to the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Congregation. Update the Congregation's governing documents as needed to align with the governing documents of the ELCA and the Sierra Pacific Synod.

1.6 Work through the transition dynamics and emotions that usually follow the departure of a pastor.

1.7 Address the Five Focus Points below that constitute the Work of every Congregation in transition, in light of these Three Questions:

- a. Who are we?
- b. Who is our neighbor?
- c. What is God calling us to do?

1.7.1 Focus Point # 1) Heritage: Review how the congregation has been shaped and formed, and what the congregation values from its past, and then work through the transition dynamics that usually follow the departure of a pastor.

1.7.2 Focus Point # 2) Leadership: Review the congregation's needs and its ways of organizing; develop new and effective leadership.

1.7.3 Focus Point # 3) Mission: Discern a sense of purpose and direction considering the congregation's current values, attributes, gifts and resources, and context.

1.7.4 Focus Point # 4) Connections: Strengthen Congregation members' understanding of themselves as Lutheran Christians. Examine and rediscover linkages with the Capitol Valley Conference, the Sierra Pacific Synod, and the ELCA, as well as with the local network of ecumenical and interfaith communities.

1.7.5 Focus Point # 5) Future: Develop a Ministry Site Profile that accurately reflects the congregation and its commitment to new directions in ministry. (The Intentional Interim Pastor will not be in any way involved in selection of candidates; that work lies exclusively with the Call Committee.)

1.8 In conjunction with the congregational council, a Transition Team may be established whose purposes will be to:

1.8.1 Monitor and assist with the progress of the accomplishment of the Work of the Congregation.

1.8.2 Help the Congregation conduct a self-study.

1.8.3 Develop a vision for the Congregation's mission.

1.8.4 Discern the leadership needed for the Congregation to fulfill its vision. (If a Transition Team is not utilized, then a Call Committee is established according to the congregation's constitution. The Intentional Interim Pastor will serve as a resource for the Call Committee.)

1.9 Learn the Congregation's story, and identify the values, strengths and resources that have served the Congregation well throughout its history. Identify and employ resources necessary to address issues.

1.10 Engage as much of the Congregation as possible in the transition process.

1.11 Update the congregation's governing documents as needed to align with the governing documents of the ELCA and the Sierra Pacific Synod.

1.12 Update the parish register in conformance with the congregation's governing documents.

1.13 Mutually assess our interim ministry together every three months, make course corrections as appropriate, and amend this Covenant as agreed by the Congregation Council, Intentional Interim Pastor, and Office of the Bishop.

1.14 Address the following:

1.14.1 Declining membership

1.14.2 Strengthening Leadership

1.14.3 Improving Stewardship

1.14.4 Maintaining the Large Facilities
(Long-term)

1.14.5 For the sake of the ministry of St. Luke Lutheran Church, the Intentional Interim Pastor and the Congregation Council agree to a minimum length of service of six (6) months.

2. The Intentional Interim Pastor will:

2.1 Preach and teach the Word of God.

2.2 Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the

Lutheran Church, as agreed, and arrange for substitutes for other times.

2.3 Officiate at (or provide an appropriate officiant for) weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and funerals. Funerals and weddings for members of the congregation are part of the Intentional Interim Pastor's congregational duties. The Intentional Interim Pastor may charge directly for funerals and weddings of nonmembers, lining up with the congregation's policies.

2.4 Provide for pastoral care to members of the Congregation, according to their needs, visit as necessary, and uphold the members in prayer.

2.5 As needed, serve as the Lead Pastor of the Congregation with supervisory responsibility for all staff and other leaders of the Congregation.

2.6 Serve as Head of Staff of the Congregation, with all the authority implied, including the authority to supervise all members of the staff, in consultation with the Congregation Council or its appropriate committee.

2.7 Develop or assist in developing educational programs when needed.

2.8 Welcome and follow up with guests to the Congregation.

2.9 Encourage the Congregation to support the total ministry of the ELCA and the Sierra Pacific Synod.

2.10 Be responsible for the recording of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, attendance at Holy Communion, and the maintenance of the membership rosters, and report the statistics of the Congregation promptly and fully, as requested by the Synod.

2.11 Guide the Congregation in addressing the Five Focus Points that constitute the Work of the Congregation (1. Heritage; 2. Leadership; 3. Mission; 4. Connections; 5. Future).

2.12 Respond to any requests by, or for, any former pastor to conduct any services of worship, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, in any of the congregation's facilities in accordance with the policies of the ELCA.

2.13 Report monthly to the Congregation Council and quarterly to the Office of the Bishop.

2.14 Participate in the Sierra Pacific Synod's regional interim gatherings and Synod-wide

trainings, as required by the Synod, for the benefit of the Congregation.

2.15 In the case of part-time ministry, agree to the following schedule of service:

2.15.1 The part-time interim pastor shall work and be available four days each week and be off work and not available three days each week.

2.15.2 The interim pastor shall work on all Sundays except when on vacation.

2.15.3 The interim pastor will develop and advertise a work schedule, in cooperation with the Congregation.

2.16 Give special attention to:

2.16.1 Producing a video worship service for each Sunday and, in addition, conducting an in-person worship service when permitted.

2.16.2 Providing a weekly Bible study via Zoom or in-person.

2.16.3 Providing support for WELCA and Youth activities.

2.16.4 Providing comfort, care, and visitation for members, especially to those confined to homes when permitted.

3. The Intentional Interim Pastor will not:

3.1 Under any circumstances, be available for regular call in this Congregation.

3.2 Be involved in the selection of the Congregation's settled pastor, except at the request of the Office of the Bishop. The Intentional Interim Pastor may respond to inquiries from candidates for the call, as long as the initiative for the interaction comes from the prospective pastors. The Intentional Interim Pastor will not be in any way involved in selection of candidates; that work lies exclusively with the Call Committee.

3.3 Become a member of this Congregation after this Covenant terminates.

4. The Congregation will:

4.1 Commit to the gospel by faithful participation in worship, learning, and fellowship activities.

4.2 Seek to fulfill its calling to be servants to others through its members, in their families,

occupations, neighbors, communities, civil and political institutions, and voluntary associations.

4.3 Support the ministry of the Congregation through service and regular giving.

4.4 Receive the Intentional Interim Pastor, uphold them in prayer, and accord them love, respect, and good will.

4.5 Look to the Intentional Interim Pastor to preside at baptisms, celebrations of Holy Communion, and other rites of the church.

4.6 Deal promptly with any suggestions or other interference, or other difficulty with any former pastor (installed or temporary) of the Church. The Council will immediately refer all such experiences to the Office of the Bishop.

5. The Congregation will not:

5.1 Under any circumstances, consider the Intentional Interim Pastor to be available for regular call in this Congregation.

5.2 Ask any previous pastor to perform any pastoral functions during the term of this Covenant, except by arrangement with the Intentional Interim Pastor.

5.3 Ask the Intentional Interim Pastor to perform any pastoral functions after the termination of this Covenant, except by request of the Office of the Bishop.

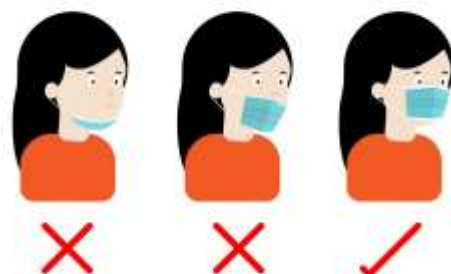
**2/3 time represents approximately 28 hours per week 'regular' hours plus 10 additional 'irregular' hours; as described in the Guidelines and Guidance for Rostered Ministers and Congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Part-Time Ministry and Part-Time Ministers, May 10,2019, pages 6 and 7.*



Getting closer, and closer ---

With Covid-19 cases declining and the Supreme Court's ruling that California cannot prevent churches from holding in-door services, we are very close to resuming in-person worship services. The target date is March 7, 2021. Both the Worship & Music Board and the Taskforce to Re-Open agree on the following guidelines for the safety of all parishioners, while adhering to the guidelines of both California and the Sacramento County Public Health Department:

- Practice social distancing (6 feet apart). (Floor markers will be in place.)
- Your temperature will be taken prior to entering the Narthex.
- You will be asked the following questions: (1) "In the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19?" (2) "In the last 14 days, have you experienced any new symptoms such as coughing or sore throat; diarrhea or loss of appetite; or loss of taste or smell; or trouble breathing?" If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, or if you have an abnormal temperature, you will be asked to go home and seek medical advice.
- Enter only through the Narthex doors; exit only through the doors on the west side of the sanctuary.



- Masks or appropriate face coverings must be worn at all times, except for children age 2 and under. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.
- Refrain from personal contact with others, such as shaking hands, hugs, or similar greetings that break physical distancing – before, during and after worship service.
- Attendance will be taken at the door, rather than passing out the attendance registers.

At this time, attendance is limited to 25% of capacity, which is 82 total persons for the Sanctuary. Here’s what to expect when entering the Sanctuary:

- Bulletins, offering plates, hand sanitizer, gloves, and Communion Element Kits will be available on tables in the back of the Sanctuary; ushers will be available to answer any questions.



- Alternate rows of pews have been taped off to allow for social distancing.
- You are asked to sit on the right side of the Sanctuary only, unless attendance warrants opening the pews on the left. Please allow 6 feet between you and fellow parishioners (again, except for family members)
- Singing is still prohibited, but music will continue to be part of the service.
- There will be small waste baskets on the taped-off pews for the empty Communion Elements Kits.
- Please exit row by row, 6 feet apart (except for families)
- There will not be a receiving line when you exit.
- When you exit the Sanctuary, please go straight to your car in the parking lot instead of gathering to socialize with others.

It has been almost a year since we have been allowed to worship in St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. We are so excited and looking forward to gathering once again in our beloved church.

In Christ’s Love,

Shirley Prouty, Chair



Worship & Music, and Taskforce to Re-open W-ELCA had their first meeting in 2021 with a Zoom Meeting. It was great to see the women of the church even if not in person, and try to start a new normal until in-person events can take place at the church building again. We had 16 women attending our first meeting.



Our **March Mission** Support is for **Chicks-in-Crisis.**

- Items needed the most if always diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6), but also needed is baby wipes, formula, children’s clothes sizes newborn to 5T, maternity clothes, Crock Pots



medium, measuring cups, kitchen utensils, cutting boards, and gift cards.

Donations can be dropped off the whole month of March at the Drive-through-Prayers, or if in-person worship it taking place a donation box will be available before you enter the narthex for service. If by chance you would like someone to come by for your donation due to transportation needs, Merle Zborg, Linda Duffek, or Peggy Moser have indicated they would be happy to come to your house to pick up your donation(s). Please find their phone numbers in the church directory.

On March 11, a Zoom Invite with the W-ELCA Agenda will be sent out to the women of St. Luke's Lutheran Church for our next meeting which will be Saturday March 13, 2021 at 11:30am. Please plan on attending we would love to see you all.

Yours in Christ Love,
Marlene Kiser, WELCA President



Hello! As the new youth leader I have been adjusting and trying to communicate with the youth and their families. In January I had a meeting with Laura Tice and Samantha Basquez to help with the transition of leadership. Thank you Laura and Sam for the help and the continuing support. I also had my first youth meeting in January and will have another meeting with the youth the end of February.

April 4th is Easter Sunday and the youth normally fills Easter eggs the Friday before. Last year Samantha and her kids filled Easter eggs and put them in goodie bags for drive-through prayer.

We have lots of Easter eggs but I would like to put in a request for donations of individually wrapped candies.



Those donations can be dropped off at drive-through prayer or in the narthex if church services are in session. If we're not in person for church by the time Easter comes around I will still have goodie bags for drive-through prayer.

Amber Mansfield



Even in these times of social distancing, we are still the body of Christ together.

February and March 2021 donations will be given to **Maryhouse** at Loaves & Fishes, an organization that provides daytime hospitality for women and children experiencing homelessness. Items needed for the homeless children are **new children's underwear** (not previously worn, no matter how gently used) as well as new or "**gently used and ready to wear**" **children's clothing**.

If you want to read more about Maryhouse, visit [sacfishes.org](http://www.sacfishes.org) or <http://www.sacfishes.org/programs/maryhouse>

There are several ways you can donate:

- Drop your donations at the church during Drive-Through prayer
- Contact Linda Duffek or Merle Zbrog for a pickup.



- Drop the items at Maryhouse at 1351 North C Street
(Mon-Fri from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm)
- Donate on the Maryhouse website and let them do the shopping.

Proverbs 19:17



The Property Board will be conducting an All Members Work Party on Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 p.m. to noon, with COVID safety cautious being observed.



READ ALOUD

It was brought up at a meeting that there is a need by members of the church that they would like to have someone be able to read the Monthly News & Views to them due to many different reasons. After the meeting it was put upon my heart by God that I could do this through a Zoom Meeting. So, I am offering to read the News & Views the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm, this should allow everyone to have received the News & Views in the mail.

As I thought about this event, I thought it would be nice that everyone would get themselves a cup of coffee or what ever they want to drink, even some cookies to munch on and I would read each article

in the letter. Besides reading the articles it will be a great time just seeing members of our church again.

If you are interested in coming to a Zoom Meeting for the reading just let me know (Marlene Kiser, 916 424-8626. Please leave a message on the phone when you hear the beep) and I will send you the invite for the first reading on March 4 at 1:00pm. If you know someone that may not see this article in the News & Views and they would be interested please provide the invite to them also so anyone wanting to join will be able to come.

Yours in Christ Love,
Marlene Kiser



The Worship & Music committee is working diligently on preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter. Please stay tuned, we will send announcements through email, our website, and our Sunday bulletins.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

January 2021

(Note: Normal church worship services and other activities were suspended beginning March 18, 2020, which significantly affected the data in this report.)

Comments:

- a. January was a five-Sunday month.
- b. As the tabulations above show, the offerings for the new year are off to a poor start. Both the comparisons to last year and the Budget have a 12 percent plus shortfall.
- c. Annual statements of contributions for 2020 have been distributed for all contributors. If you do not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact me as noted below.
- 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. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me

*Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, LRFenske@comcast.net
St. Luke's Financial Secretary*



Corey Anderson	March 01
Selena Connell	March 05
Elizabeth Brasier	March 06
Jennifer Connell	March 06
Karen Richey	March 06
Renee Roberts	March 06
Laura Tice	March 07
Kevin Kiser	March 09
Jesse Jaeger	March 12
Donna Ben-lesau	March 13
Ron Petsch	March 13
Sarah Thomas	March 13
Sarah Madison	March 16
Mackenzie Harrison	March 17
Addison Jaeger	March 19
Manny Menezes	March 21
Jan Tanaka	March 22
Irma Lowe	March 23
David Saxby	March 23
Conner Ricciardi	March 24
Amelia Tice	March 24
Katie Light	March 25
Bob Harrison	March 26
Al Moser	March 26
Lilia Karlstad	March 27
Karen Kiser	March 28
Patricia Lehman	March 29
Bob Behr	March 30
Kelly Sobkowsky	March 30

General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Contributions	\$14,660	\$14,660	
Compared to Budget	-\$2,010	-\$2,010	
	-12.1%	-12.1%	
Compared to 2019	-\$2,096	-\$2,096	
	-12.5%	-12.5%	
No. of Contributors			
2021 (Current Year)	54	54	avg.
2020 (Last Year)	68	68	avg.

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

Lord, we pray that the stained glass window which has been installed in Your house, will be a blessing to all who view it, and a reminder of the cherished woman to whom it is dedicated, Tracy Lynn Light.

In grateful thanks also, to the St. Luke's congregation who helped make this endeavor possible, and special thank you to the creator of this beautiful window, Ralph Wadkins. To God be the glory, now and forever.

Karen Linfor, Ken and Katie Light, Mark Silver



Tracy Dearest,

You are now resting with the King of Kings, whom you loved and served throughout your short, but very meaningful life. Your shining presence, your beautiful smile, all the wonderful things that made you YOU, are precious memories to those of us you left behind on that December day.

Your love of God, family, friends, music, books, the beach, Carmel by the Sea where you were born, all become even more meaningful and special now, if that is even possible. I will keep my memories of your birth, your love, your thoughtful and kind ways, tucked safely away in my heart for the rest of the time God chooses to give me.

*As you said when signing off notes and letters to me, "love from above, Tracy Mae".
Until we meet again Baby Girl, I love you!*

- Your Mama



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 739
Sacramento, CA

Return Service Requested



March 28th is
Palm
Sunday
Details to follow