



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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 Interim Pastor Bill Wessner
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News and Views

Pastoral Perspective



Pastor Bill & his wife Susan

“How are you?”

We all have handy short answers to this question especially when it is asked as a simple greeting instead of genuine concern. But these days have been different. We own a new earnestness reporting to one another our vaccine status, family or work interaction techniques, our surgery and treatment schedules, our stages of grief, our techniques for resilience. It is as if our common fear and precautions have united us in a new way. Yet, we are no longer sequestered, and now interact with strangers more. Not quite back to normal* but coming. Will we sustain this genuine compassion and interest once we are free from each of our personal COVID shadows?

“How are you?”

Our answers may change faster than the stock market. I am collecting answers: “So far so good” “healthy” “fine for now” “could be better” “adjusting” “better than I deserve” “doing well....” Do you have a response I can add to my collection?
 ** My favorite is “hopeful,” though I don’t remember to use it as much as I did when this global misadventure began.

“We will rise,”

is another way of saying “hopeful”. Beyond surviving, or dreaming, we do this together, led by the one who’s Resurrection we celebrate in a few days. The whole world is still suffering this longest Lent, but we see the curse is broken in vaccines, in our respect and mutual grief, in our care and cooperation, in lower restrictions, bit by careful bit, in the slowing of new cases and the plummeting of death rates. Soon we hope, all will enjoy the bright new days. Hopefully, in our mutual suffering we will retain a more trusting and cooperative spirit.

“Hopeful,”

is a direction. Christ beckons us to lead in that direction in all times, good and bad. He leads us by taking on our mutual suffering, facing persecution, death and by rising again. We are invited to proclaim the depth and breadth of God’s love for the entire world. Easter is coming and our celebration of God’s intervention into the pain of the world will shine brightly this year and be lived out hopefully in all the years to come.

“We will rise.”

Pastor Bill

*Is our “normal” really normal or just typical, fine tuned for personal preference?

**Feel free to contribute at PastorBillSLelca@gmail.com or 916-562-3564 cell & text

Presidents Message



Greetings St. Luke's,

We're Back!!! Come and join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

When the Church's Council voted on March 17, 2020 to suspend In-Person Worship

service, we thought it would be only for a short time. Little did we know it would be 10 days shy of one year before we'd be able to come together and worship in the sanctuary. Covid-19 has ravaged our country and the world, but things are on the up swing. God has brought us through a very dark time, and we give him THANKS in a big way.

There are restrictions in place, but we're back and things are going well. We are two weeks in, and looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. So please come join us in worship. We're looking forward to seeing you each Sunday.

WELCOME BACK!!!

Your Sister in Christ ...

Peace,

Carolyn Andrews
Council President



Worship
& MUSIC

BOARD AND TASK FORCE TO REOPEN ST. LUKE'S

After almost a year of not being able to worship in-person, St. Luke's reopened its doors on March 7, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some things are different. Public health regulations are followed closely: screening; masks; social distancing; open doors for fresh air and circulation; every other pew taped off to allow for social distancing while seated in the Sanctuary; attendance registered; bulletins and individual communion kits on the tables in the back of the Sanctuary for each person to pick up; and offering plates on the tables as well, rather than being passed from person to person. Thanks to Marlene Kiser and Pastor Bill Wessner, our new Interim Pastor, services are live-streamed, as well as the video and children's sermon posted online. Our loyal choir members meet every Friday morning with our Choir Director, Jane Fanucci, and Marlene videos the music which is shown on the screen during services, since we are still cautioned not to sing in the Sanctuary. While there have been a few glitches to iron out, we are so thrilled to be able to worship our triune God in person! If you have not yet attended our "new" services, please consider doing so. Of course, the live-streamed service and video on-line (slelca.org) will continue to be other options, as well.

Numerous members have been involved in making our reopening possible, and I very much appreciate each of you.

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Shirley Prouty, Chair



W-ELCA had their second Zoom meeting March 13, 2021. There were 10 women who attended the meeting. Peggy Moser provided the opening prayer; Faith Thomas did the Devotional for the meeting; Minutes were read by Gabby Cox; the Treasurer report was provided by Connie Reule; and the Mission report was done by Linda Duffek, Peggy Moser & Faith Thomas. We are happy to announce that Faith Thomas has agreed to finish Judy Saxby term as Vice-President for W-ELCA. We are sorry to see Judy go but happy that Dave and her have found a new church in Auburn where they live now. There were no Birthday women who attend the meeting on the 13th, but we wish all those with Birthday's in March a Happy Birthday.

It was discussed and voted on that going forward this year that W-ELCA and Community Concerns would join support for our Mission Projects. In April the Support will be for the Kiwanis Family House. Their needs include: socks, underwear and cleaning products (wipes, spray disinfectant, etc.) Donations can be dropped off the whole month of April at the Drive-thru-Prayers, or in the Narthex if you come to In-Person Worship.

At the meeting we also discussed the options we have for a possible Bunco Night on June 5, 2021, so please save the date. More information will be coming.

Are next Zoom Meeting will be April 10th, so please watch for an invite for the meeting from Connie Reule. The invite will be sent out to the women of St. Luke's Lutheran Church a couple days before the meeting, please plan on attending we would love to see you all.

Yours in Christ Love,
Marlene Kiser, WELCA
President



Hello everyone! As I mentioned in last month's newsletter we had a zoom youth group meeting at the end of February. I had a couple youth members attend and it went great. By the time you see this we will have had another youth meeting towards the end of March.



We will not be having an Easter egg hunt this year. Instead we will have goodie bags with candy filled Easter eggs available. The goodie bags will be available at in-person worship and drive-through prayer. Thank you to those who donated

candy as well!

We are also looking for youth members to be acolyte again! Before the pandemic you may remember that the acolytes



would wear robes, help with communion, and bring the offering up to the altar. Those aspects of the church service has changed. Now as an acolyte you would only be lighting and putting out the candles. I can retrain or train anyone that would like to acolyte. Please let me know! :)

- Amber Mansfield

Palm Sunday





FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

February 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. February was a four-Sunday month.
- b. As the tabulations above show, the offerings in February fell far short of the adopted Budget that was approved by the congregation.
- c. The accumulated shortfall for January and February is \$5,003 or 16.4 percent below the adopted Budget. If this trend continues, the projected year-end shortfall will exceed \$30,000 and essentially eliminate St. Luke's Reserves.
- d. The reduction in contributors is alarming. St. Luke's averaged 75 contributors throughout 2019 (i.e., before the pandemic), which is 23 contributors greater than the current average.
- e. 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.
- f. 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

General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Contributions	\$10,917	\$25,577	
Compared to Budget	-\$2,993	-\$5,003	
	-21.5%	-16.4%	
Compared to 2020	-\$4,431	-\$6,527	
	-28.9%	-20.3%	
No. of Contributors			
2021 (Current Year)	49	52	avg.
2020 (Last Year)	73	71	avg.

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



Anthony Neidich	April 01
Michele Clemens	April 03
Larry Dockter	April 06
Clarence Korhonen	April 12
Marilyn Sodergren	April 16
Matthew Spear	April 16
Charles Yakabe	April 16
Megan Gadreault	April 17
Heidi Harrison	April 17
Leah Torres	April 18
Reuben Jones	April 19
Kamryn Olsen	April 19
Mary Frances Harris	April 20
Cheryl Menezes	April 20
Benjamin Quintero	April 24
Connie Reule	April 24
Rylee Shower	April 25
Lisa Englund	April 27
Lisa Olsen	April 28
Rachel Kiser	April 30

Thank You!

Greetings, St. Luke's Family and Friends,

Mark Silver and I wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who have called, sent cards, and brought delicious food and dessert to us in recent weeks. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

I am still confined to staying in, wearing a boot, and getting around on a scooter ☹️, for which I am also grateful. I am looking forward to being back in church, and seeing everyone again.

Although I don't enjoy being unable to be out and about, I am thankful that I was able to get my ankle repaired. God is good!

May our Lord and Savior continue to bless you!

In His love,
 Karen and Mark
 karenalinfor@gmail.com
 916-803-7988



NEW Christ in Our Home Devotionals are here!
 You can pick one up at In Person Worship or at Drive-through Prayer.

I can also mail one to you. Please contact the office at office@slelca.org or leave a message at 916-421-5039.

Thank you.



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

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Return Service Requested

Celebrate Easter with us!

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Drive-through Prayer

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Goodie bags available at

Drive-through Prayer & In-Person Worship