



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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www.slelca.org
 office@slelca.org
 Interim Pastor Bill Wessner
 PastorBillSlelca@gmail.com



News and Views

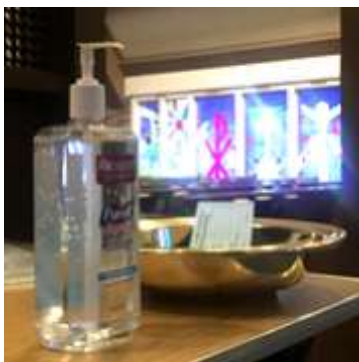
Pastoral Perspective

From Pastor Bill
 Interim



Worship

I think about worship as a time when our physical actions match our spiritual intentions. Coming to worship service at church is one of the ways that our physical action matches our spiritual intention. We show our unity to one another with our physical presence as we participate in the common aspects of our individual faiths. Part of our understanding of who we are in God's faithfulness to us is lived out as we gather together. But we know a safe gathering in these days, while possible, is complicated with continuing limitations, interfering with many of our physical actions such as singing and personal greetings. In a way, masking our spiritual intentions.



Offering

One of the many examples of safe practices we have taken is the collection of an offering. It is done in a limited way; that is to say we don't "pass the plate." While the plates are available before and

after worship on our paths in and out of the sanctuary, they are no longer used during the worship service. This position distances the thought of our giving from being a community

event. When we pass the plate back and forth across the pews, we are physically asking each other to give in support our mutual ministries. We see face to face the ushers and our fellow members participate in this ritual. We see the gift presented at the altar, where we do work for God and God does work for us. Even if we give to the church through electronic means or through the mail, this participatory act memorializes in our vision the now community nature of our individual gifts.

Gratitude

Our personal acts of gratitude are then gathered in our shared, public presence and we become one body in this mutual action. When we give inside the sanctuary, we do so in the historical presence of all who came before us. Those who built the building and those who sustained it throughout all of the transitions both in the church and in the world. The same is true for us in these days. We too will be part of this legacy as we continue the life of this congregation and prepare it for all who will come after us. Our faithfulness becomes part of God's expression of faithfulness to us, through us, and beyond us, into God's greater story with humanity. Even as we pray an Offering Prayer, we are giving thanks for and dedicating gifts from individuals without seeing the physical act taken to draw them together and presented to God.

Coming Together

Regardless of the individual pieties that bring you or me to understand when to give, and how to give, and how much to give it¹, is a recognition that we

are in this together. Giving is an act of worship, not just a break from worship. We do not pass the plate as a reminder to give, even as we are often reminded at this time. We take this time to give together as we worship together, the God who brings us together. So, if we are watching at home, or coming to the sanctuary, we should all be able to see in these moments, that our participation belongs to the collective people of God. Even if our physical actions cannot match our spiritual intentions, let us gather these thoughts as we come together, apart.

Peace
Pastor Bill

¹Please share with me your giving thinking at
PastorBillSLelca@gmail.com or
916-562-3564 cell & text



Dear Church Family,

Greetings ...

We're still open for worship!
We did Holy week worship services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, virtually. We rejoiced Jesus'

Resurrection and praised our Lord on Easter Sunday in the sanctuary as a family. We weren't able to do an Easter Egg hunt or Easter Breakfast this year, but the children and their families received Easter Goodie Bag prepared by the youth and some adults, too.

Council and the various Boards are meeting, via ZOOM, monthly and are preparing for in-person activities to resume as restrictions are lifted. We can always use extra hands. Many hands make for light work. Areas of concern is leadership for both the Evangelism and



Youth Board. If you are interested in joining our leadership team, let me know. God's work our Hands.

In-person worship is going very well and if you have not been able to join us, we are looking forward to seeing you soon. Mask wearing and Social Distancing are being practiced, vaccinated or not.



Blessings and Peace to you

Carolyn Andrews
Council President



WORSHIP & MUSIC BOARD

"God's Work, Our Hands"

The church lost several members who moved since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and of course, Pastor Carl retired and moved on to another congregation, along with Triss and Holly. While we wish them all God's blessings in their new locations, their parting has left opportunities for others to actively participate in various positions – before, during, and after worship services.

Please, prayerfully consider volunteering in the following areas:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Ushers | Acolytes |
| Scripture Reader | Prayer Leader |
| Choir | Altar Care |
| Greeter (Check-In Table) | |





Since we are still advised not to sing in church, the Choir will continue to perform and be videoed on Friday mornings at 10:00 am in the Courtyard. More voices are welcomed to help "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord." There is also interest in getting the Bell Choir together again for future special music during worship services, and additional "bell ringers" would be needed.

Please contact the church office at office@slelca.org, or Shirley Prouty, by phone (916) 389-0673, or email at mybammmy@att.net if you are interested in serving. Your help is needed and would be greatly appreciated.

In Christ's Love,
Shirley Prouty



W-ELCA had its Zoom meeting Saturday, April 10, 2021. There were 14 women who attended the meeting. Marlene Kiser opened the meeting with a prayer; Faith Thomas lead 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. Happy Birthday was sung to Connie Reule (who has an April birthday) and was present at the zoom meeting.

The combined W-ELCA and Community Concerns Mission Projects for May is to support St. John's Program for Real Changes. They are requesting new women panties & bras only. Linda Duffek also reported that they are still collecting old large purses to be used to place toiletries in to hand out to the homeless so please continue to bring old large purses to the church.



Upcoming Events:

The upcoming May W-ELCA meeting on May 8th will be held in the church's park area (grass by the parking lot). Social distancing and masks will be observed during the meeting. The meeting will be held at 11:30 AM and you will need to bring a chair to sit on. Those who desire can bring a lunch if one is wanting to eat their lunch during the meeting. I will also start a Zoom Meeting during this time on my phone for those wishing to not attend in person, a meeting invite will be sent out a couple days before the meeting.

June's Bunco event is still being considered but possibly not in June since California State is considering opening the state on June 15th to functions. Further consideration will need to be looked at so we can determine what will be needed for this event. We may be able to consider having a summer event if Schultz Hall can be used. More to follow after the May Meeting.

Fall Festival will also be further looked into in the coming months as we see what happens with opening up the state. More to come!!

Yours in Christ Love,
Marlene Kiser, WELCA President



A New Zoom Bible Study will start on May 4, at 10:00 AM

Dates: May 4th thru July 27th, with June 29th off (Fireworks Booth will be open)
Topic: The Gospel of Mark
Study Guide: Life's Lessons from Mark
Author of Study: Max Lucado

Please let Marlene Kiser know by email: marlenek@att.net or by phone (916-424-8626, please leave a message) if you are interested in attending the Zoom classes that will run for 12 weeks so you can be included in the invite. A Study Guide can be purchased for \$8.00, for the study.

As one study says: "The gospel of Mark is a densely packed, fast-paced, action-filled narrative about Jesus of Nazareth, his life and teachings, his divine identity and human vulnerability, God's kingdom breaking in through him, and the Judean and Roman opposition mounted against him. It is a story of prophecy and power, resistance, and betrayal. The story's climax includes Jesus' violent death by crucifixion and the abrupt and enigmatic ending pointing to his resurrection."

We have and will be reading through the Gospel of Mark in our services in church this year. Please join this study as we study the words of Mark the Evangelist.



Thank You



Participants

On March 27, a group of eager members prepared the church facilities for the upcoming special Easter services, as well as, completing the usual spring chores. It was a beautiful sunny Saturday morning and, fortunately, adequate help was available. The immediate effort was to arrange and place the palm branches for Palm Sunday, the next day. A special thank you to Karen and Bruce Kiser for obtaining the palm branches.

The other much-needed chores accomplished this Work Day included polishing the brass accessories,

unsticking a severely stuck door, and completing a general cleaning of the Sanctuary facility and surrounding grounds.

We thank the Work Day workers – Susan and Pastor Bill Wessner, Bob Behr, Ben Briel, Carol Carney, Jack Fenske, Dorothy Haney, Ed Ireton, Karen and Bruce Kiser, Marlene Kiser, Clarence Korhonen, Peggy Moser, Shirley Prouty, Faith Thomas, Carol and Mack Vance, and Gail Weber. Your efforts are appreciated. Thank You.

The Property Board has scheduled the next All Members Work Day for the fall, specifically Saturday morning on November 13. If able, please plan to participate.

God bless and enjoy.

St. Luke's Property and Music & Worship Boards



Parents, grandparents, and other proud family members, is anyone in your family graduating this year? This applies to any type of graduation, from kindergarten, 6th grade, high school onward - college, grad school, trade school, or professional school. Let's honor our 2021 graduates. Please send me their picture, name, where they are graduating from, and their future plans to office@slelca.org. I will feature them in our next News & Views.

If you are planning to attend Graduation Sunday on June 13th, please let me know your school colors too.

Thank you.
Rochelle



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

March 2021

(On-site worship services did not occur in January and February of 2021).

Comments:

- a. March was a four-Sunday month.
- b. Good News: The March offerings and number of contributors increased significantly from last month.
- c. Not So Good News: The monthly and YTD offerings continue to fall short of the (1) adopted Budget and (2) last year's offerings and the number of contributors.
- d. 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	\$13,011	\$38,589	
Compared to Budget	-\$894	-\$5,896	
	-6.4%	-13.3%	
Compared to 2020	-\$1,898	-\$8,424	
	-12.7%	-17.9%	
No. of Contributors			
2021 (Current Year)	56	53	avg.
2020 (Last Year)	66	69	avg.

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



Thank you Merle for the beautiful flowers in celebration of Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day.

Rochelle



Kelly Boyer	May 02
Ryan Edwards	May 04
Jeremy Roberts	May 04
John Mansfield	May 08
Jennifer Petersen	May 08
Katie Iniguez	May 09
Philip Karlstad	May 14
Lucy Orcutt	May 14
Victoria Diaz	May 15
Tracy Etchison	May 16
Debi Lentsch	May 17
Brenda Sulzmann	May 18
Alison Thomas	May 18
Samantha Basquez	May 19
Carole Edwards	May 21
Liza Petsch	May 22
Claire Kerian	May 23
Nancy Minning	May 26
Kennedy Moser	May 27
Carol Carney	May 30
Dorothy Haney	May 30
Justin Tice	May 30



Jan Tanaka died and passed into Jesus' loving arms April 17th. Please give thanks for hier caring life among us and the new life she has with Jesus for eternity.

Please pray for her family that they are held in the Lord's tender loving care as they grieve.

Service information to follow.



DEATHS IN OUR CONGREGATION



ROSARY JENSEN
APRIL 14, 2021



RUBIN JONES
APRIL 21, 2021



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



Every Sunday

for In Person Worship

Or Live on our website at 10:30 am.

slelca.org