



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(916) 421-5039
www.slelca.org
office@slelca.org

Pastor Brian Hiortdahl
pastorbrian@slelca.org

News And Views



Pastoral Perspective **2023**

Go find another church!

Please don't misunderstand. You are beloved, appreciated, wanted and needed at St. Luke's—I thank God that you part of our community of faith. I hope your presence here will bless us and you for a very long time. So what do I mean?

In the next year, I ask you to pick one Sunday (hopefully not the same one as everyone else) and forgo St. Luke's to visit and worship with another Christian congregation. What do you notice? What sticks with you about the experience? What can St. Luke's learn from these siblings in Christ, and what could they learn from us?

I ask you to do this for multiple reasons:

Visiting another congregation helps you see your own more clearly. I remember returning from a college trip overseas to Israel, Egypt and Greece and realizing that the country I learned the most about was the United States. Visiting other cultures reveals our own in a way that staying put never can. Worshiping somewhere else with different people, practices, art, architecture, approaches, and style will shine a fresh new light on St. Luke's, which for many of us has become too familiar to see. Spending time in another spiritual home sharpens your view of your own.

Visiting another congregation will be uncomfortable. This is a good thing, because being uncomfortable heightens our awareness and expands our perspective...and our compassion. Feel how awkward it is to walk into a new church; it will give you a new appreciation of those who walk into St. Luke's for the first time. I've heard many of you voice hope that our church will grow. How we receive visitors who have the courage to enter our doors for the first time is essential to making that hope come true.

(continued)

Visiting another congregation helps you see and dislodge your assumptions about church. You likely have ideas about how church is supposed to be and operate. What are they? Can you even name them without the prompt of experiencing something different? I know that I tend to be less open minded and more opinionated (and stuck in my ways) than I tend to think I am; I'm not really as flexible as I fancy myself to be. God's church is always bigger and broader than we imagine or experience it. What if you showed up one Sunday morning to St. Luke's to find a room full of teenagers chanting medieval Latin with candles everywhere, except for the side room which is full of shopping carts, garbage bags, and backpacks? Would you thank God?

Visiting another congregation opens a two-way street of blessing. A different congregation might bless you with new learnings, friends, or perspectives, or maybe tripwire a joyful memory to warm your heart. You might bless them with your experience and wisdom which is fresh to them. You might be able to share what you perceive, positively and negatively, about the way they did or didn't welcome you and bless them with your encouragement, helpful critique, or both. You might also return to St. Luke's with ideas or perspective that can help the rest of us.

Visiting another congregation is practice in the art of going. *Go, make disciples*, Jesus said. He also said *Go on, Go and tell, Go wash, Go show, Go the extra mile, Go in peace...* you get the idea. Following Jesus is a life on the go. It is courageously moving forward into new situations and opportunities. Somehow *Go, church* got warped into "go to church," turning *church* from a dynamic people into a static destination, from our name into a mailing address. Church is a movement, not a monument. Moving our feet to new ground helps remind us of this.

I look forward to hearing from you about your experiences of church beyond the walls on Center Parkway. God's church and world and love are so much bigger than we are. Go...





Message from Council President Chet Madison

It's hard to believe the first quarter of 2023 is behind us, and we just completed a wonderful Holy Month of April. I want to thank the Worship & Music, Evangelism, Community Concerns, and WELCA for making St. Luke's a welcoming house to serve God's people. Let's not forget our hard working Property Board members and the many volunteers that helped spruce up the appearance of St. Luke's Church for the Holy Month of April.

Our Finance Board is working hard to oversee our monthly budget. I ask that we all give our undivided attention to the new monthly and quarterly graphs as it relates to our Budget, Incomes and Expenses. Our goal is to increase our income, by increasing offerings, membership, facility usage, and other fund raisers. We want to reduce/eliminate relying on our reserve funds each month.

Challenges: We must get our Youth and Education Boards up and running.

We can no longer let this issue remain on "cruise control." I believe we all share the responsibility to insure youth and Christian education becomes alive at St. Luke's Church. Let's talk to our children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends and invite them to come and visit our church. What can St. Luke's offer the community to attract youth and new members? Why should they come to our church? Lots of questions we must ask ourselves.

As we move forward let us consider ways to creatively meet the challenges we are facing.

With God's blessing and working together we can make a difference!

Peace Be with You,

Chet Madison



WORSHIP & MUSIC BOARD

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS: April was a very busy month for St. Luke's. We began on April 1st with an awesome crew of volunteers to clean and polish all of the elements used at the Altar, to clean and polish the pews in the Sanctuary, refill the offering envelopes in the pews, and to vacuum where needed. The Property Board also had an awesome crew of volunteers to spruce up the campus as well as myriad other chores around the church. When all of the cleaning was done, both groups joined forces to decorate both the exterior and interior of the church with palms in celebration of Palm Sunday the following day. The huge Palm Arch at the beginning of the center row of the Sanctuary is always impressive. A big Thank You to Bruce and Karin Kiser for always finding those large palm branches; and to Peggy Moser and Faith Thomas for scouting out the neighborhood for the palm fans and bringing them to church! There are so many to thank for all of the hard work that went into beautifying the Sanctuary: Karen Linfor, Laura Tice, Carol Carney, Dorothy Haney, Faith Thomas, Marlene Kiser, Peggy Moser, Linda Duffek, Carole Vance, Kathy Arndt, and Andy Weber. Thank you, also, to the Soul Sisters who took down and disposed of the palms on Monday.

Volunteers also stepped up to help with striping the Altar during the Maundy Thursday service, as well readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, ushers and greets for that service and the Good Friday service. Those included Sarah Madison, Kelly Boyer, Lois Sherrets, Brenda Sulzmann, Karin Linfor, Peggy Moser, Kathy Arndt, Linda Duffek, Faith Thomas, Carolyn Andrews, Dorothy Haney, Connie Reule, Gail Weber, Andy Weber, Barbara Manlapig, and Lydia Toloy. I sincerely apologize if I left anyone out!

There's always a need for volunteers to assist with many tasks required every Sunday. Let me also thank a couple of others who work "behind the scenes:" Bob Behr who brings out and places the two large candelabras on the Altar and changes the Eternal candle every Sunday; and Jeff Kiser who refills all of the Altar candles with oil after each service, and he operates the sound system when needed.

Opportunities to help are plentiful, and volunteers are always welcomed. And, since we have gone back to having Communion at the railing, THREE volunteers are needed each Sunday to help serve Communion. There's a signup sheet in the Narthex. Please help! We need you!!

In Christ's Love,
Shirley Prouty, Chair

CAN YOU READ ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability. – Acts 2:4*

We will celebrate Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church, on **May 28**. Would you be willing to read part of the Pentecost story in a language other than English? If you are willing and available, please notify Pastor Brian no later than *May 23* and identify which language you speak/read so that we can prepare accordingly.



Thank you to everyone who came out and helped beautify and spring clean St. Luke's on April 1st. The Church work day was a big success with many helping hands. Thank you to Bruce Kiser for hanging the palms, the church looked fabulous.

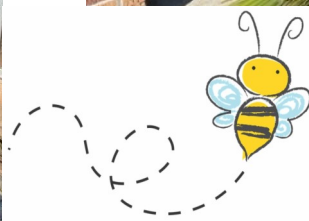
- Humble Servant, Kelly Boyer

Kathy Arndt
Ben Briel
Carol Carney
Linda Duffek
Jack Fenske
Dorothy Haney
Marlene Kiser
Bruce Kiser
Clarence Korhonen
Peggy Moser
Shirley Prouty
Brenda & Jim
Sulzmann

Carole & Mack Vance
Andrew Weber



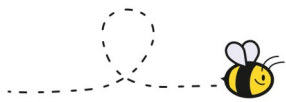
Church Work Day April 1st





*Thanks
for
Serving!*





May



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday May 7th

Marlene Kiser	Altar Care	Acts 7:55-60
Bob Behr	Reader	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16
Faith Harper	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 2:2-10

Sunday May 14th

Gail Weber	Altar Care	Acts 17:22-31
Kelly Boyer	Reader	Psalm 66:8-20
Howard Triebwasser	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 3:13-22

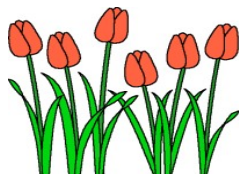
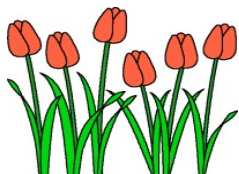
Sunday May 21st

Faith Thomas	Altar Care	Acts 1:6-14
Kirsten Ireton	Reader	Psalm 68:1-10,32-35
Kelly Boyer	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11

Sunday May 28th

Day of Pentecost

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care	Acts 2:1-21
Philip Karlstad	Reader	Psalm 104:24-34
Laura Tice	Prayer Leader	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13





May BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Boyer	May 02
Ryan Edwards	May 04
Jeremy Roberts	May 04
Jennifer Petersen	May 08
Katie Iniguez	May 09
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

Sunday School will be ending for Summer break on May 28th and will resume again beginning in the Fall (date TBD). We're still looking for a couple more teachers, so please reach out for more information! 916-271-7566

CAPITOL VALLEY CONFERENCE GATHERING (MAY 6)

You are invited to join with St. Luke's representatives and other Lutherans from the wider Sacramento area from 1-3pm at Good Shepherd Church, 1615 Morse Ave., Sacramento on Saturday, May 6 for our spring assembly. The first hour will be dedicated to discerning candidates for our Sierra Pacific Synod bishop's election in September. The second hour will be reserved for voting, conference business, and updates from various congregations. More information about the Spring Conference Gatherings can be found on the synod website, spselca.net

women  OF faith



We at St. Luke's would like to celebrate our Mothers with a wonderful luncheon.

Also it will be our monthly W-ELCA meeting, you can have your picture taken, win raffle prizes, and enjoy some wonderful fellowship!

Saturday May 13th, 2023 @ 11:30 am

We are gathering children's undergarments and socks for the Mustard Seed School kids this month.

Hope to see you there!!

Humble Servant, Kelly Boyer

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
March 2023**

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$12,519	\$41,820
Compared to Budget	-\$818	+\$1,808
	-6.1%	+4.5%
No. of Contributors	55	57 aver.

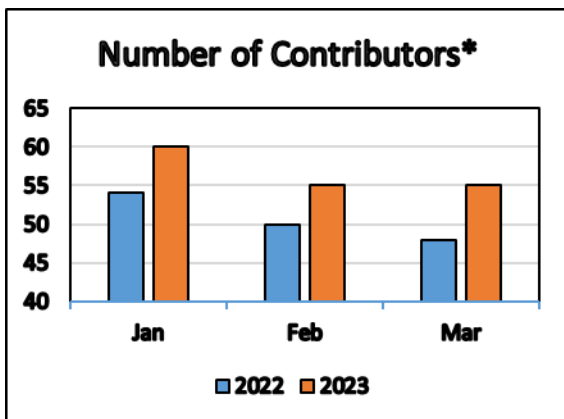
Note: Plus values are above Budget; minus values are below.

Other Contributions:

- A. Easter Lilies - \$265
- B. Special Gifts - \$130
- Sunday School Room lighting

Comments:

- A. March completes the first quarter of 2023.
- B. Overall, offerings for the YTD are above the adopted Budget. However, remember the Budget includes \$6,750, to date, taken from the Reserve/Fireworks funds. Of course, this cannot continue.
- C. On an encouraging note, the number of contributors has increased. See column graph.

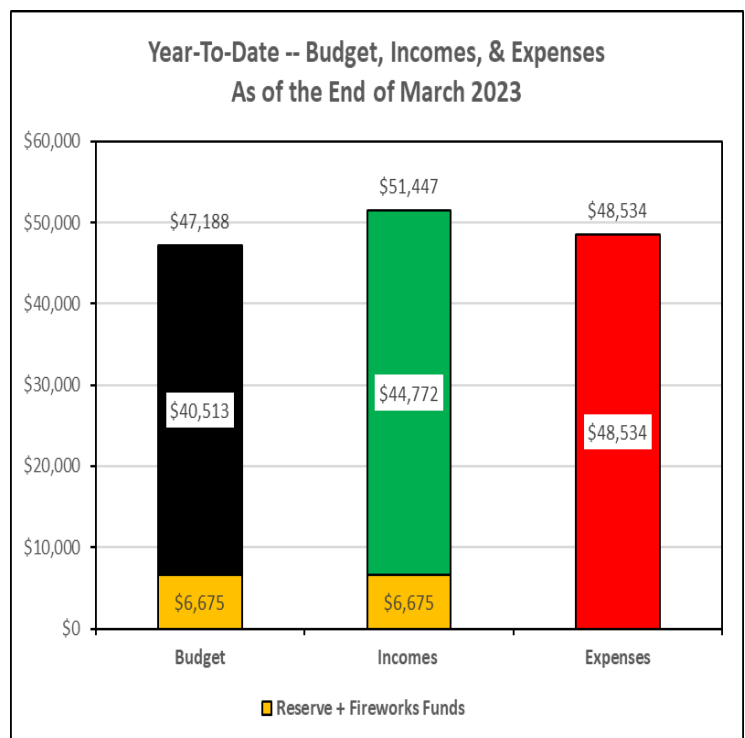


D. Need offering envelopes? If you need offering envelopes, please contact me by email or phone or simply put a note in the offering plate.

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

To supplement the Financial Secretary's report on contributions, the Finance Board provides the graph below that compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of March 2023. As shown, the incomes are exceeding the budget (Good). The incomes without the Reserve and Fireworks supplemental funds are falling short of the total expenses. Our goal is to increase our incomes (offerings, facility usage, etc.) such that we are no longer dependent on the supplemental incomes to meet expenses.

FINANCE BOARD





24th Annual Fireworks Sale

June 28th—July 4th 2023



Who's ready for some fireworks? I know I am. And I have a big change to let you know about for this year. What is it? Well....sorry, just a teaser, but I'll let you know next month. So stay tuned!

For now, I'd just like to ask you to start thinking about how you can help. We always needs lots of volunteers so please consider all the was you can help. Here's some ideas: selling fireworks (sorry, you must be 18 or over), coming by and visiting, bringing snacks and drinks to share, stocking the booth, waving flags and banners or dress in costume to attract passersby, buying fireworks, and encouraging your friends and family to do the same! The booth opens at noon on June 28th, and then closes between 9 and 10 p.m. through July 4th.

If you have any questions about the fireworks booth or about how you can help as a volunteer, just call or see me. We have a lot of fun every year (including Fireworks Booth Bingo), so don't miss out.

In His Name....

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Booth Committee Chair



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

Slelca.org

St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Women of the ELCA
7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento

Invite you to attend our 18th annual

Mega Bunco Fundraiser

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Dinner will be served at 6PM
BUNCO begins at 7PM



Limited Seating



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
it's easy and fun!

Cost **\$15.00** per person

PRIZES – RAFFLE – DINNER



For information and/or tickets contact
916-421-5039

We will be collecting items for our
local SPCA
(towels, blankets and pet food)