

Parish Rebuilder

St. Luke's Lutheran Church - 5150 Wilson Street, La Mesa, CA 91942

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

October 2026
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 26 Issue 10

We invite you to attend

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Please contact Lupita in the office to discuss
a visit or to arrange an appointment with
Pastor Mark:

619-463-6633 or office-sllc@att.net

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Reading the Bible?

A hot topic in theological circles these days is how to read the Bible. That really means how one should interpret the Bible. Toward the end of his life, Luther wrote the following about his reading of the Bible and his rediscovery of the power of the doctrine of justification by faith alone:

Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place, most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted.

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to

understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me. Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory. I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is, what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us strong, the wisdom of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God

And I extolled my sweetest word with a love as great as the hatred with which I had before hated the word "righteousness of God." Thus that place in Paul was for me truly the gate to paradise (Luther's Works, 34:336-337).

Luther's recollection of his experience reading the Bible reflects, in many ways, that of our own. How many times do we read the Bible with the wrong impression of what is really there? How many times does it seem like others are telling us that we have a wrong reading of the Bible?

Part of a "wrong" reading of scripture is expecting and trying to understand it with our own set of experiential or intellectual tools gained through life and learning. The Bible can be picked apart like any object of examination, similar to

dissecting a laboratory specimen or taking apart an engine. Those activities, however, do not reveal either the true life of the creature once alive or provide the benefits of being propelled from one place to another by the engine.

In other words, we tend to read scripture both out of context and even backwards. Primarily, it is not we who interpret scripture, but scripture which interprets us. It tells us that we are sinners. It tells us that we have misunderstood and construed God, and his word worshipping instead false gods of our own creation. It tells us that Jesus Christ took on our flesh, was put to death for our trespasses, was raised for our justification, and that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. So, what else does scripture say about you?

MAF Sunday with Tim Ault

For decades, St. Luke's has had an endearing relationship with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), and particularly the Ault Family. Each year, MAF provides aviation services to more than 400 mission agencies, churches, and humanitarian organizations around the world. Without MAF, some of these organizations would be unable to reach the people they serve. Through these partnerships, MAF connects isolated people with vital services and goods while sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Tim grew up in San Diego, California. At the Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle his

heart was touched by the Lord, sparking the desire for full-time Christian service in mission aviation. Tim attended Christian Heritage College in southern California, where he studied Mission Aviation Technology. He holds commercial and instructor pilot licenses with instrument, landplane, and seaplane ratings, and airframe and powerplant mechanic licenses.

After Portuguese language study, Tim and his wife, Roxanne, moved to Boa Vista, Brazil, to serve as a pilot/mechanic family. They were also able to fly in Mozambique, Africa, for a time to help cover another Portuguese-speaking program. They returned to Santarém, Brazil, then moved to Manaus for the second half of their term.

In Santarém and Manaus, Tim continued a seaplane ministry to aid local churches and various missions in church-planting and expanded his gospel outreach to more than 30,000 isolated communities along the Amazon River.

On Sunday, 04 October, during the Sunday school time, St. Luke's is holding a special MAF Sunday at which Tim will update us on MAF and on his life as a missionary aviator. Please mark your calendars to attend this informative missionary event.

Oh No! Thelma is Leaving!

After many months of agonizing decision making, Thelma Pace will be leaving southern California and St. Luke's to return to her childhood home state of Indiana. Although the exact date has not yet been set, it will most likely take place in October 2026. So, in order to ensure that the church will be able to bid her farewell, also on Sunday, 04 October, the congregation will have a small reception to thank Thelma for her many years of service at St. Luke's and to assure her that she will always be part of this church family.

Reformation Celebration 2026

This year, Reformation Sunday is on October 25. Since the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, with a slight COVID hiccup, St. Luke's has biannually celebrated the Reformation with area Lutheran churches and pastors. That tradition continues this year! So, on Reformation Sunday from 4:00-5:00 pm local pastors will present on Reformation-related topics. This year's presenters are Pastor Mark Menacher, Pastor Paul Willweber, Pastor James Huenink, and Pastor Brian Hamer. The presentations will be interspersed with rousing Reformation hymns led by Richard Deal. From 5:00-5:30 pm, the "Pastors Panel" will field questions from the audience. Then, at 5:30 the Reformation Fest Feast begins with bratwurst, hotdogs, potatoes salads, pretzels, etc. Tickets for the meal are only \$5.00. Invite your family, friends, and even enemies to partake of this special, indulgent celebration.

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Though recent days and weeks have been extremely hot, God's amazing artistry has been on full display. Have you, too, marveled at His incredible variations of cloud formations? How many awesome sunrises and sunsets has He painted across our skies? Did you see them? Vacationing people have posted stunning pictures of God's artistry on display from all around the world. His works are incredible!



Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." His artistry was at work as He designed each one of us! Genesis 1:27 states that Adam and Eve were created in His image! Thus, despite our fall into sin, He continues to remain resident with each of us! I have marveled all my life at God's creativity – at the wonders of nature seen in the array of flowers and trees, at the beautiful variations and exquisite uniqueness of each human being, and at His astounding painting of the skies each day.

As a young girl, I so longed to be artistic. My two brothers and one sister each demonstrated many varieties of artistic skill. It came so naturally to them. My sister once did a pencil drawing of John Wayne that looked so real I almost expected him to start talking right there from the paper! My older brother could sit down with a paper and pencil and replicate any cartoon character in a moment and often designed beautiful scrolls and, then, carved them out of pieces of wood! My younger brother could sculpt and paint – once creating a huge, realistic painting of the White House (on a canvas larger than our garage door) to use in a school tableau presentation. WOW – they had such astounding artistic ability! My Mom and I, however, favored stick figures, smiley faces and an occasional pretty colored design – none of which were very noteworthy. I so wanted to be artistic, but I could not compare to my siblings' productions. Sadly, I quit trying.

It wasn't until I was an adult and teaching Special Education Students in an Elementary School that I pushed past my learned insecurities and comparisons and

It wasn't until I was an adult and teaching special education students in an elementary school that I pushed past my learned insecurities and comparisons and tried to stretch and use my God-given creativity. As I helped my students risk learning new possibilities, I was delighted to discover my own artistic capabilities. What a surprise! What incredible joy!

I imagine many of us have undiscovered and underused creative skills. After all, God originally created humanity in His image. Sometimes, we simply need to have an opportunity to discover our artistic capabilities and with guidance and encouragement come to learn how to use them.

I invite you to mark your calendars for a morning of such discovery on Saturday, October 10th. We will be meeting in the lower level to create Pumpkin Succulent Gardens. Bring your own pumpkin, as well as a friend or your spouse, and learn to create a thing of beauty to display in your home or give to a friend or neighbor. We will also have some little pumpkins to decorate for our Reformation Celebration later in the month on October 25th. Everyone is welcome to share in the fun and creativity. I hope to see you there.

Let's allow God's creativity to blossom in us! 1 Peter 4:10 states, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Let's reflect God's amazing artistic creativity together in fellowship, friendship, and fun.

In His service,

Laurie



OCTOBER is QUILT MONTH!



Every year in October "Project Ladies" gather our quilts to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief Headquarters. In preparation, we need help on several days, no longer than an hour at a time.



October 6th at 9:30 am

We will be carrying the quilts up to the sanctuary and displaying them on the pews.



Tuesday, October 13th at 9:30

We will take them downstairs, count them, box them up, and label them ready to transport on Saturday.



Saturday, October 17th

We will meet at church at 9:30 to take them to a central location to be loaded onto a semi. The Olsen's have volunteered their truck and the Prior's will transport overflow. We need a few people to load and unload.

Please let Cheri Murrell know if you can volunteer any of these days.

Thanks

(clmpta@yahoo.com)

People
Helping People
Near and Far
♥

*Warm
Quilts
Brighter
Tomorrows*
♥

Faith
Fellowship
Service
In Action

OCTOBER WORSHIP TEXTS

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— October 4, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-19

Second Lesson — Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel — Matthew 21:33-46

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

— October 11, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 23

Second Lesson — Philippians 4:4-13

Gospel — Matthew 22:1-14

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

— October 18, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9

Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel — Matthew 22:15-22

Reformation Sunday

— October 25, 2026

First Lesson — Revelation 14:6-7

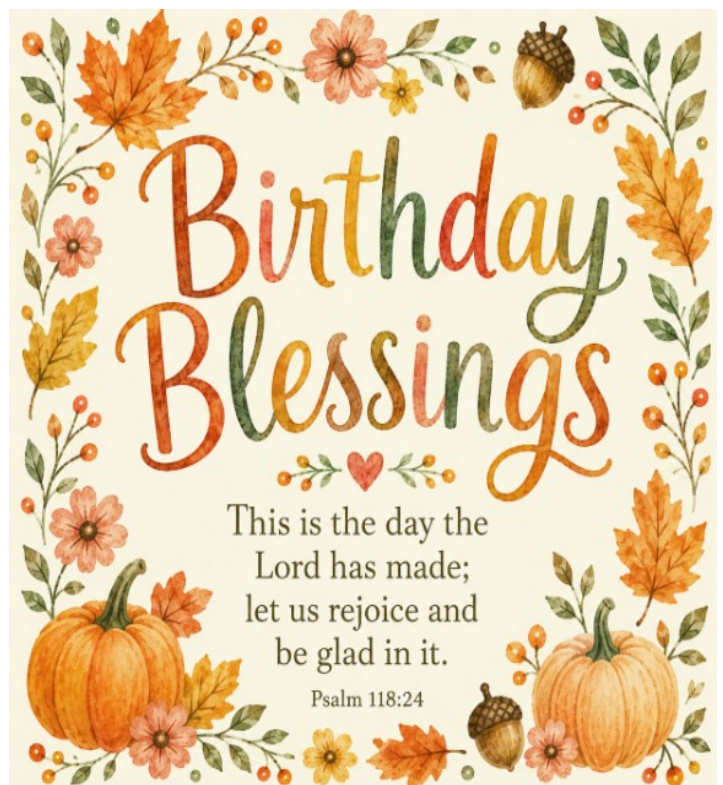
Psalm 46

Second Lesson — Romans 3:19-28

Gospel — John 8:31-36



Judy Kirk	10/8
Sheila Stubbs	10/10
Victoria Hauk	10/20
Gail Knippelmeyer	10/21
Stewart Mossman	10/23
Jack Hendrickson ¹	10/28



OCTOBER PRAYER CALENDAR

“In Holy Conversation”

1	I Sam 12:23-24	<i>In holy conversation Begin in childlike ways; We bring our supplications And words of thanks and praise. With care our Father listens To every thought expressed, Then answers our petitions In ways He knows are best</i> <i>As holy conversation, In silence or by word, In every situation Through Jesus, we are heard. So let us pray securely, Expressing hopes and fears</i> <i>And to support our prayers His spirit intercedes Then answers our petitions in ways He knows are best With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears. With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears.</i> <i>Hymn # 772 Lutheran Service BK</i>
2	Psalms 103:1-22	
3	Matthew 6:6	
4	Mark 6:46	
5	Luke 18:1-8	
6	Romans 8:26	
7	1 Thessalonians 5:17	
8	Acts 6:4	
9	Romans 12:12	
10	1 Corinthians 7:5	
11	Philippians 4:6-7	
12	Jude 7-25	
13	Psalms 3:1-4	
14	James 5:15	
15	Psalms 5:1-9	
16	Psalms 25:4-7	
17	Psalms 105:1-6	
18	Psalms 17:6-9	
19	Psalms 18:1-3	
20	1 Timothy 2:1-3	
21	Psalms 25:47	
22	Psalms 27:11-14	
23	Psalms 25:16-21	
24	Psalms 31:1-5	
25	Isaiah 43:1-2	
26	Psalms 51:10-13	
27	Psalms 138:1-8	
28	Psalms 142:1-7	
29	Psalms 145:1-21	
30	Lamentations 3:19-26	
31	James 5:15	

OCTOBER WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	Randy Engel
	Altar Guild	Terry East
4th	Communion Assistant —bread	Bob Urich
	Communion Assistants—wine	Jillian Barnard & Jennifer Killion
	Greeter	Randy Engel
	Prayers of the People	Pastor Mark Menacher
	Projectionist	Shirley Carrington
	Usher Team	Bob & Cheryl Gray
	Acolytes	Giuliana Salas & Jocelyn Sollenberger
	Sound Tech	Kendrick Jennings
	Counter	Jennifer Killion
11th	Communion Assistant —bread	Ted Olsen
	Communion Assistants—wine	Laurie Floren & Terry East
	Greeter	Jillian Barnard
	Prayers of the People	JoAnn Hendrickson
	Projectionist	Gail Knippelmeyer
	Usher Team	Laurie Floren & Randy Engel
	Acolytes	Audrey Utley & Charlotte Utley
	Sound Tech	Kendrick Jennings
	Counter	Judi Cole
18th	Communion Assistant —bread	Ken Murrell
	Communion Assistants—wine	Jennifer Killion & Randy Engel
	Greeter	Laurie Floren
	Prayers of the People	Dianne Foreman
	Projectionist	Shirley Carrington
	Usher Team	David & Kim Emerson
	Acolytes	Giuliana Salas & Charlotte Utley
	Sound Tech	Kendrick Jennings
	Counter	Jennifer Killion
25th	Communion Assistant —bread	Bob Urich
	Communion Assistants—wine	Terry East & Jillian Barnard
	Greeter	Jillian Barnard
	Prayers of the People	Jennifer Killion
	Projectionist	Gail Knippelmeyer
	Usher Team	Gary & Carol Prior
	Acolytes	Stasha Raschtschenia & Audrey Utley
	Sound Tech	Kendrick Jennings
	Counter	Judi Cole

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	2	3 8:00 am JOY
4 Farewell To Thelma 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00/4:30 SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	5 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	6 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	7 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	8 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	9	10 8:00 am JOY 9:00 am WSL Fall Event
11 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00/4:30 SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	12 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	13 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg 7:00pm SLTA	14 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	15 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	16	17 8:00 am JOY
18 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00/4:30 SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	19 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	20 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	21 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	22 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	23	24 8:00 am JOY
25 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon Congregational Meeting Reformation Fest	26 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	27 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	28 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	29 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	30	31 8:00 am JOY

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dated Material
October 2026

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Sunday Worship: 9:00 am in the Sanctuary
- Sunday School: 10:30 am in the Lower Level
- Wednesday Choir Practice: 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room (Lower Level)
- Wednesday Pericope / Communion Service: 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

St. Luke's Mission Statement:

We are called as a community of Christians saved by grace
—through faith alone in Jesus Christ—
to spread the Holy Gospel in word, sacrament, and action
solī deo gloria.