Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

November 2026
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 26 Issue 11

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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Thanksgiving?

In the autumn in many countries, people celebrate some form of harvest thanksgiving. The Canadians had their Thanksgiving Day on 12 October. Harvest Thanksgiving is often celebrated in Sunday church services in Britain and in Germany (Erntedankfest). Americans are fond of our Thanksgiving festival, this year on 26 November. As in recent years, this year Alcoholics Anonymous will make use of the church's Family Center offering meals and meetings through out Thanksgiving day.

In the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW - the old green hymnal), the communion setting is labeled in the rubrics as "The Great Thanksgiving." That was a liturgical change which is more important than it appears. "Thanksgiving" is translated into English from the Greek word "Eucharist." Anglicans and Roman Catholics often refer to communion as "the Eucharist." So, with the introduction of "The Great Thanksgiving," millions of Lutherans were getting the "Eucharist" in a disguised way.

Giving thanks to God and being thankful in relation to God are, of course, appropriate. Most Christians express their gratefulness at mealtimes. In fact, we should be thankful to God for every aspect of life, not just meals and the harvest. So, what could be wrong with a "Great Thanksgiving" in church?

Having a trained theologian for a pastor has its benefits and drawbacks. One benefit (or drawback) is the continual encouragement to think about what we are doing theologically and why we do it. In churches, "going through the motions" often takes the place of clearly teaching and preaching the word. The former can become quite mindless. The latter takes a lot of work. In which direction do we human beings usually drift? (You may answer for

yourself.)

When Luther and the other Reformers changed the liturgy, they proceeded carefully. They removed theologically objectionable parts, rewrote others, and left the rest unchanged. What they wanted chiefly to remove was the canon of the Mass, the sacrificial parts of the communion service. In the Roman Church, the priest liturgically re-enacts a "bloodless" sacrifice of Christ on the altar. This offering of the sacrifice by the priest for the living and the dead had atoning properties. That is partially why Protestant churches do not formally have an altar but rather a communion table.

In contrast, Lutherans and Protestants generally teach as per scripture that Christ died once for all. Thus, there is no need for priests to do over and over what Christ did once for all. So, the Reformers decided to "sacrifice" this repeated bloodless sacrifice. The Roman Church was outraged, and that is one of many reasons why Lutherans and Roman Catholics are not in "full communion."

When the liturgical renewal movement was getting underway in the 1960's and 1970's, many Lutherans were attracted to the ceremonies of other churches. These folks seemed to think that Lutherans were lacking something. So, they started copying the worship practices of the Anglican and Roman churches, going the opposite direction from the "contemporary worship" advocates. This has produced good and not so good things.

One very important aspect, which for Lutherans is not good, was the reintroduction of "eucharistic prayers." If you look at the communion liturgies, some of the words of institution (In the night in which he was betrayed …) are set inside of prayers to God. In Roman and Anglican churches, the priest needs to do something to the elements of bread and wine to make them into communion. So, they offer something to God and pray that God does his job on changing the elements into Christ's body and blood. If a priest does not do this, and do it properly, there is no communion. Furthermore, not just anyone can do this. Instead, it takes a specially ordained priest do to make it happen. If the priest is not ordained by a bishop in "historic succession" by other bishops, there is also no communion. In the eyes of such churches, Lutherans do not have proper priests and thus do not have proper communion. (So, perhaps we should just stop wasting our time and go straight to breakfast, right?)

Faced with being "inferior," eucharistic prayers were slipped into Lutheran liturgy to make "our" (actually the Lord's) communion more acceptable to other churches. Sadly, although not called "The Great Thanksgiving" like the LBW, the "The Service of the Sacrament" in our current Lutheran Service Book (LSB) includes a "Prayer of Thanksgiving," a eucharistic prayer which Luther would reject. Philip Melanchthon, Luther's colleague, described "eucharistic prayers" as a "wicked thing."

The issue in the liturgy is direction. For Lutherans, everything is given from God and comes to us, one way. If we could offer something useful to God, we would not need a saviour. So, if a "saviour" is repeatedly offered to God with the help of a human "priest," what kind of a saviour is that really? In other words, what kind of a church puts itself above God? (I suppose all of them, but that is a different topic.)

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper here at St. Luke's we only use the words of institution, no eucharistic, thanksgiving add-on prayers. We do not sacrifice anything to God. We do not offer anything to God. Rightly understood, our thanksgiving (eucharist) only comes after we have received communion; that is after we have received the body and blood of Christ himself giving himself to us by his word of promise for the forgiveness of our sin. Thanks be to God!

Holiday Season Approaches

As the holiday season approaches, church and family lives will become more festive and perhaps hectic. Ample opportunities to celebrate this, that, or other things will abound. So, please note that Thanksgiving is on Thursday, 26 November. A memorial service for Cal Borchardt will take place on Saturday, 28 November at 1:00 pm. The First Sunday in Advent is 29 November which means that St. Luke's Christmas Tree Decorating Party will probably take place on Friday, 04 December at 6:00 pm. Our annual German Christmas Carol Service is scheduled for Sunday, 20 December and will be held in conjunction with the House of Germany adult and children's choirs. Finally, Richard Deal is working tirelessly to prepare voice and instrumental musicians to celebrate the incarnation of Christ on Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm. The holidays are very special times, and spending them together with the very special people at St. Luke's makes them even more joyful.



Please update your records with Bonnie Halverson's new contact information:

Bonnie Halverson
1415 Cypress Ln
Placerville, CA 95667
Cell: (619) 244-1870

80 Lutheran World Relief Quilts and 36 Prayer Quilt

As recently announced by email broadcast and on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 11, St. Luke's "Project Ladies" have raised the bar to new heights for crafting quilts for those in need. In 2026, SLLC's quilters made 80 quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and 30 prayer quilts on top of that.

As information, it takes approximately 10 hours to make each of these 60"x 80" quilts, which equals 800 hours or a little over 33 24-hour days. This is an art which entails: 1) measuring and cutting squares and batting, 2) designing the layout and assembling the squares for the top of the quilt, 3) measuring and piecing the backs of the quilts, 4) sandwiching the top, back and batting 5) then clamping them to the table, 6) tufting and knotting the layers together and mitering the corners, 7) then machine finishing and 8) finally bundling and boxing them for storage in San Diego before they're shipped to LWR headquarters for distribution.

Our quilts last year were sent to the Texas flood victims. In years past, up to 26 women quilted twice a month in the Lower Level. Currently, four or sometimes five women are working every Tuesday morning all year long, and despite the fewer numbers, more quilts are fashioned!

In addition to the donations to LWR, St. Luke's also offers a handmade Prayer Quilt to anyone, member or not, not only for their physical comfort but with prayers for healing or spiritual restoration. The Prayer Quilts are done at home then brought to church so the congregation can "tie a prayer" into the quilt using pre-tufted thread.

If you would like to explore the world of quilting ministry, feel free to come to the Lower Level just about any Tuesday morning to join in the fun and fellowship of this special ministry.
by Carol Prior

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Have you ever had one of those days, weeks, or even a season when the hurts and struggles of life seem overwhelming and exceedingly hard to endure? Somehow the pressures seem to mount and painful phone calls with heart-wrenching news abound. Those times often feel impossible to navigate.

Yet, in the midst of such heartache and difficulties, I hear the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6 also comes to focus in my mind, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I remind myself, too, of Psalm 107:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever."

My Friends, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday this month, may we actively choose to voice our gratefulness to the God of all creation. He knows us! He loves us! He helps us! Psalm 28:7 states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me." I pray that we will be reminded that despite life's adversity, Jesus is closer to us that we can fathom. As the beloved hymn states:

What a Friend we have in Jesus

(Text by Joseph M. Scriven – 1855, tune by Charles C. Converse – 1868)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Oh what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness –
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge –
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.

Finally, God reminds us in Psalm 118:4-6a, "Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His love endures forever.' When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; He brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid."

My Friends, let's pray individually and corporately for each other and give God great thanks for his overwhelming graciousness in all aspect of life.

In His service,

Laurie



Eagle Scout Project Completed

A New Bench for the Courtyard

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026



On Saturday, September 19, 2026, I completed my Eagle Scout project, which was to build and install a bench for the courtyard. It was a huge success with a great turnout of Scouts and congregation members.

A heartfelt thank you to the congregation and everyone who generously donated and supported this project. It would not have been possible without your kindness, encouragement, and generosity.

I hope this bench will remain here for many years to come, providing a place of rest, reflection, and happiness for all who use it.

Now, I move on to the final step of my journey to Eagle Scout. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this project a reality!

Thank You,

Stasha Raschtschenia

NOVEMBER WORSHIP TEXTS

All Saints' Day — November 1, 2026
First Lesson — Revelation 7: 9 – 17
Psalm 149
Second Lesson — 1 John 3:1–3
Gospel — Matthew 5:1–12

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost — November 8, 2026
First Lesson — Amos 5:18–24
Psalm 70
Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
Gospel — Matthew 25:1–13

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost — November 15, 2026
First Lesson — Zephaniah 1:7–16
Psalm 90:1–12
Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Gospel — Matthew 25:14–30

Last Sunday of the Church Year — November 22, 2026
First Lesson — Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalm 95:1–7a
Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 15:20–28
Gospel — Matthew 25:31–46

First Sunday in Advent — November 29, 2026
First Lesson — Isaiah 64:1–9
Psalm 80:1–7
Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Gospel — Mark 13:24-37



Kathleen Yerger	11/2
Ken Murrell	11/4
Richard Deal	11/17
Madilyn Lindstrom	11/18
Gleason Snashall	11/18
Jonathan Janos	11/22
Tress Wheeler	11/22
JoAnn Hendrickson	11/27



Jack & Joann Hendrickson	11/8
Ken & Cheri Murrell	11/17
Doris & Gleason Snashall	11/19
David & Kim Emerson	11/28

NOVEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

"We Praise you, O God"

1	Psalm 43:3-5
2	Lamentations 3:22-26
3	Ephesians 1:3-10
4	2. Timothy 2:8-14
5	Psalm 73:23-28
6	Philippians 4:4-7
7	2 Timothy 1:8-14
8	Psalm 92:1-4
9	I Peter 1:3-7
10	Psalm 95:1-7
11	Psalm 148:1-14
12	Psalm 100:1-5
13	Ephesians 4:1-6
14	Colossians 1:9-14
15	Psalm 103:1-22
16	Psalm 107:1-9
17	Psalm 105:1-6
18	Philippians 4:4-7
19	Habakkuk 3:17-19
20	Psalm 111:1-10
21	Micah 7:18-20
22	Psalm 93:3-5
23	Psalm 105:13-21
24	Psalm 89:1-2
25	I Thessalonians 5:16-18
26	Psalm 145:13-21
27	Colossians 3:16-17
28	Psalm 86:10-13
29	Hebrews 13:20-21
30	Psalm 66

We praise you, Oh God , our
Redeemer, creator
In grateful devotion our
Tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we
Kneel and adore you;
We bless you Holy name,
Glad praises we sang.

We worship You, God of our fathers,
we bless You; Through trial
and tempest our guide
You have been.
When perils o'ertake us,
You will not forsake us.
And with Your help, O Lord,
our struggles we win.

With voices united our
praises we offer And gladly
our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us,
Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise!

Hymn #785
LSB

NOVEMBER WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	*Dianne Foreman*
	Altar Guild	*Terry East*
1st	**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	*Audrey Utley and Charlotte Utley*
	Sound Tech	*Kendrick Jennings*
8th	**Communion Assistant —bread**	*Ted Olsen*
	Communion Assistants—wine	*Randy Engel & Terry East*
	Greeter	*JoAnn Hendrickson*
	Prayers of the People	*Randy Engel*
	Projectionist	*Gail Knippelmeyer*
	Usher Team	*Cheri Murrell & Randy Engel*
	Acolytes	*Giuliana Salas and Jocelyn Sollenberger*
	Sound Tech	*Kendrick Jennings*
15th	**Communion Assistant —bread**	*Ken Murrell*
	Communion Assistants—wine	*Randy Engel & Terry East*
	Greeter	*Jillian Barnard*
	Prayers of the People	*Randy Engel*
	Projectionist	*Shirley Carrington*
	Usher Team	*David & Kim Emerson*
	Acolytes	*Stasha Raschtschenia and A. Utley*
	Sound Tech	*Kendrick Jennings*
22nd	**Communion Assistant —bread**	*Ted Olsen*
	Communion Assistants—wine	*Jennifer Killion & Randy Engel*
	Greeter	*Jillian Barnard*
	Prayers of the People	*Jennifer Killion*
	Projectionist	*Gail Knippelmeyer*
	Usher Team	*Gary & Carol Prior*
	Acolytes	*Audrey Utley and Charlotte Utley*
	Sound Tech	*Kendrick Jennings*
29th	**Communion Assistant —bread**	*Randy Engel*
	Communion Assistants—wine	*Terry East & Jillian Barnard*
	Greeter	*Randy Engel*
	Prayers of the People	*Jennifer Killion*
	Projectionist	*Shirley Carrington*
	Usher Team	*David & Kim Emerson*
	Acolytes	*Giuliana Salas & Jocelyn Sollenberger*
	Sound Tech	*Kendrick Jennings*

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00 pm SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	**2** 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	**3** 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	**4** 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	**5** 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**6**	**7** 8:00 am JOY 10:30 am WSL Story Telling 3:00 pm Men's BBQ
8 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00 pm SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	**9** 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	**10** 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Council mtg	**11** 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	**12** 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**13**	**14** 8:00 am JOY
15 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00 pm SLTA 5:00 pm Al-Anon	**16** 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	**17** 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	**18** 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	**19** 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**20**	**21** 8:00 am JOY 10:30 am WSL Story Telling
22 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	**23** 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	**24** 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	**25** 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service		**27**	**28** 8:00 am JOY Cal Barchardt Memorial
29 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	**30** 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA					

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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EL CAJON,CA
PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material
November 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

soli deo gloria.