



The Parish Builder

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 5150 WILSON ST. LA MESA, CA 91942
www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

December 2011
Volume 11 Issue 12
Monthly Newsletter

The Cares and Concerns of Christmas

by Pastor Mark Menacher

We invite you to join St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Please contact Judy in the office to discuss membership or to arrange an appointment with the pastor:
619-463-6633 or office-sllc@att.net

Office hours are:
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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We would really like to keep in touch with you. If you haven't already given us your email address, it's as easy as sending St. Luke's an email with the subject line stating "Include Me". This way you won't miss out on the updates and reminders of things going on presently and in the future.

A newborn child is a wonder to behold, especially those born premature. The tiny fingers, toes, and features seem so delicate and frail. The wonders of modern medicine in such cases provide the necessary support to help ensure that these gifts of life are given every chance to develop and grow.

If one reflects on the birth of the Christ child from that perspective, the gift of the Christmas season takes on a different perspective. Even though born close to full term, the frailty of the baby Jesus would have been unmistakable. Rather than being offered the wonders of modern medicine, the babe and his family were ushered into a cow shed. Then, he was bundled up and sent on the run to a foreign country due to a threat on his life.

Although also surprisingly resilient, a newborn baby bear starts and remains reliant upon others? How long can it survive without sustenance from its mother or wet nurse or bottle? How much force physical or dispassionate neglect would it take to extinguish such a vulnerable life? How many children die of abuse or neglect in our county, state, or world today? In that light, how would one calculate the destructiveness of the human sin residing in each of us multiplied by the over seven billion people now living and all the billions that have preceded us? How would a single baby match up to that?

We confess that God our father sent his only begotten son into the world to suffer and to die and to be buried, and then after three days to be raised from the dead. We confess thereby that God has reconciled us sinners to himself by taking away all that does and would separate us from his love. In the folds of baby Jesus' diapers, Luther believed to see the form of the cross. In other

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words, the baby Jesus was wrapped in our sin and death from his very birth in order he might bear the sin of all humanity.

It is hard for us to fathom the strength of a God who first as an infant and then later nailed to a cross could conquer the lethal might of sinful humanity. Humanity's destructive nature, though conquered, still lives in our sinful flesh. This nature is the single greatest hindrance to the church's ability to witness to the reality of God's love in our broken world. In other words, we in the church are the greatest obstacle to God creating and sustaining the mission of the church.

So, church members are always in a bind, living with the reality of their sin while simultaneously wanting to provide a place where parents, grandparents, guardians, etc, can bring their newborns, whether in life or in the faith or both, to be sustained and nurtured with the word and love of God.

At Christmas, this word and this love were made flesh to dwell amongst us. How would a congregation's communal life be if its members treated one another with the care and love which it takes to sustain and protect a newborn babe? How might that congregation affect the people around it? What is St. Luke's gift to give our members and neighbours this Christmas?

Holiday Giving

We wish to thank Bonnie Fuller and many others for assuming the responsibility for St. Luke's holiday giving baskets/gift cards in Robin Wheeler's stead. We also thank those who donated graciously to make St. Luke's holiday giving possible. The recipients of these gifts may never know whom to thank, but hopefully they will thank God for St. Luke's gifts at Christmas.

German Christmas Carol Service

St. Luke's German Christmas carol service will be held on Sunday, 11 December, at 7:00 pm. The guest preacher will be Pastor Christoph Weber, a campus pastor from Chemnitz, Germany. Pastor Weber is taking a few months sabbatical at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California. Pastor Mark and Pastor Weber have known each other since 1987, when they both studied at the Theological Seminary in Leipzig, Germany. Those with or without knowledge of German are invited to come for the service and the time of fellowship thereafter.

Christmas Cantata

Under the direction of Sue Caldwell and Esther Jordan, the combined choirs of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church will perform *The Winter Rose*, this year's Christmas cantata. The worship concert is scheduled for Sunday, 18 December, at 9:00 am at St. Luke's and the same again at 11:00 am at Pacific Beach Presbyterian. Please invite your family and friends to share in this special holiday delight.

Christmas Day Service

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, but can you guess which date? St. Luke's will hold Sunday services as usual that day. Pastor Mark will be in the pulpit. Roger Barnes will be on the organ. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, and Vixen will be acolyting. Comet will light up the star on the tree. Cupid will be impersonating the angels. Donner and Blitzen will take care of the drums and lights. Rudolph, of course, is to be the projectionist.

Special Thanks to Our Office Volunteers

The members, church council, and staff thank our many volunteers who have so helpfully provided basic office cover during Judy Jones' absence. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our On-going Outreach

Thanks to all who served at TACO on Monday, November 14: Paula Newak, Cathie Floegel, Randy Engel, John Busker, Margi and Dave Buller. and Martha Applegate. Listed are the serving dates for 2012: January 2 and 30, March 5, April 30, July 30, October 29.

Thanks to Gatherers of Bread

Thanks also to all those who on a regular monthly schedule, pick up the leftovers from the Panera Bakery/Restaurant in Grossmont Center every Thursday evening, and then faithfully deliver them (very early) to First Lutheran downtown, where they are used in the serving of TACO's Friday morning breakfast! Give hugs to Marge and Vic Bitter, Margi and Dave Buller, George Hauk, Marge and Chuck Hersom, and Gene Knippelmeyer. They are all to be commended for this service.

The Outreach Committee Needs Your Help

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry is collecting Christmas toys and socks to give to children. Toys and socks can be for girls or boys, from babies to teens. The toys need to be unwrapped. Please, no food products or gift cards. The Red Flyer Wagon and other collection boxes will be in the narthex!!

SUGGESTIONS: Girls love Barbie dolls, etc.; boys love soccer balls, footballs, etc. and hot wheel cars. PLEASE.....nothing with batteries and nothing 'violent.'

Let's make Christmas a Little Brighter for Children in Mexico

Heifer International

It happened during the Christmas Alternative Gift Faire, sponsored by your Outreach Committee: thanks to the St. Luke's members who are

giving HEIFER INTERNATIONAL alternative gifts to friends and family.....Martha Barrer, Margi and Dave Buller, Marge Carlson, Bonnie and Bob Fuller, Marie Handley, and Angie and George Hauk! (Apologies for any name that may have been omitted.)

HEIFER GIFTS are still available. Martha Applegate has catalogs with forms for ordering, and gift cards for you to send to your special recipient! Give her a call if you need more information (619-465-6005).

My Christmas List

By Ethel Langston Hawks
(Inspired by Alternative Celebrations Catalog)

What do I want for Christmas?
No things to harbor 'gainst the day they may find use,
No ornaments to decorate the house or person,
No things to satisfy the vanity,
No gourmet foods to burden arteries and blood,
No gadgets that use energy or resource on the wane,
No purchase by a harried shopper pressed by time and obligation,
No, none of these fulfill my wish for Christmas.
What do I want for Christmas?
A simple offering of love,
A message warm from friends afar and near
An affirmation of my worth from someone dear,
Some small attentions shown throughout the year.
A gift presented in my name to one less fortunate than I,
A tree replanted on denuded land,
A gift to those who strive to clean the air, the sea, the streams,
Or those who work for peace and justice on this earth, Or spend their energies for nature's preservation.
I want a gift created with imagination,
A gift designed to benefit the world or nation,
That's what I want for Christmas!

Council Minutes and Treasurer's Notes

St. Luke's church council minutes and financial reports are available in the Library for viewing by church members.

Parish Potpourri Something to Consider

If you are not involved in any service or ministry at St. Luke's, what excuse have you been using? Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor, Samson was codependent, Rahab was immoral, David had an affair and all kinds of family problems, Elijah was suicidal, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least, Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered, Martha worried a lot, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was unpopular, Thomas had doubts, Paul had poor health, and Timothy was timid. That is quite a variety of misfits, but God used each of them in his service. He will use you, too, if you heed his call!

Service to others is a way of life in Christ!

From the Women of St. Luke's (WSL)

The retreat is over, and we are still reaping the benefits from it. Those of you who were unable to attend were missed. The committee headed by Cathie Floegel went above and beyond any expectations we had. Heidi Fowler presented a Bible study that started our day of fellowship and Bible study with a big bang. There was lots of activity, lots of laughter, lots of God and we topped it all off with a short but timely sermon and communion with Pastor Mark officiating. A job well done to all the women who served as committee members under Cathie. The food collected by the committee was bagged, tagged and sent to Avondale the following Tuesday, 120 plus pounds of food for the children in need.

We, on the WSL board, have been busy with plans for our Advent Festival to be held on Sunday, December 4:00 at 5:00 pm. This will be a Potluck Dinner

The Women of St. Luke's are having a tennis shoe drive to donate to the Avondale School children. We were told that a number of the children attend school wearing flip flops. They are not allowed to attend without shoes. Our donation box is in the Narthex. If you can not buy shoes for these kids you may make check out to WSL and we will purchase shoes at Payless. You may wonder what size: We need sizes 5-12 children. Help to help them.

In God's love,
Marge Hersom

Volunteers Needed

St. Luke's is in need of another projectionist for Sunday mornings during the service. If this is something you feel you would like to do, contact the office or Sue Caldwell.

Come, Commune with Altar Guild

This "unseen" ministry is vital to the worship life of St. Luke's. Some Altar Guild activities include setting up communion, changing paraments, washing communion vessels, keeping pastor in line, and so forth. Service on altar guild is highly valued and is also a great way to meet other wonderful members of our church.

Special Thanks to Mary Ann Boullain

St. Luke's wishes to express particular gratitude to Mary Ann Boullain for providing extra office cover for Judy Jones, for producing the Sunday bulletins and also most of this newsletter.

Thanks Facilities Crew

Thanks to the Facilities Crew and other volunteers for helping Eugenio erect the Christmas tree and arrange other decorations. Well done all!

Want Coffee?

Many thanks to Aaron and Summer Steele, Jim Thompson and Michele Dipierro for their offer to assist with Sunday morning coffee service. The calendar is still open for more teams to share in this refreshing ministry. If you can handle fresh water, scoop coffee, slice doughnuts, and grapple with cups and napkins, the whole congregation would be delighted to see your "mug" join this post-sermon, life-giving ministry.

St. Luke's is looking for someone to take over the important kitchen duties, on Thursday evenings. If enough people sign up this could be just a once a month task for each. This is an important function of THNL and is appreciated by all.

Can you make time in your busy schedule?

If you would like to volunteer, please call (619-463-6633) or email – office-sllc@att.net the church office.

Thank-you from Marilyn

Thanks to all for the beautiful cards I have received and for all the phone calls offering help. I really appreciate Pastor's visits while in the hospital. His prayers were so comforting and uplifting. Thank you all for your prayers.

-Marilyn Burns

Some Christmas Quotes

When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs? ~G.K. Chesterton

Christmas is the day that holds all time together. ~Alexander Smith

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself..

~Norman Wesley Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. ~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love! ~Hamilton Wright Mabie

Isn't it funny that at Christmas something in you gets so lonely for - I don't know what exactly, but it's something that you don't mind so much not having at other times. ~Kate L. Boshier

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. ~Larry Wilde, The Merry Book of Christmas

Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves. ~Eric Sevareid

This is the message of Christmas: We are never alone. ~Taylor Caldwell

Tradition: sit with husband in a room lit only by tree lights and remember that our blessings out-

number the lights. Happy Christmas to all. ~Betsy Cañas Garmon,

Fail not to call to mind, in the course of the twenty-fifth of this month, that the Divinest Heart that ever walked the earth was born on that day; and then smile and enjoy yourselves for the rest of it; for mirth is also of Heaven's making. ~Leigh Hunt

The Church does not superstitiously observe days, merely as days, but as memorials of important facts. Christmas might be kept as well upon one day of the year as another; but there should be a stated day for commemorating the birth of our Saviour, because there is danger that what may be done on any day, will be neglected. ~Samuel Johnson

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. ~Oren Arnold

We hear the beating of wings over Bethlehem and a light that is not of the sun or of the stars shines in the midnight sky. Let the beauty of the story take away all narrowness, all thought of formal creeds. Let it be remembered as a story that has happened again and again, to men of many different races, that has been expressed through many religions, that has been called by many different names. Time and space and language lay no limitations upon human brotherhood. ~New York Times, 25 December 1937, quoted in Quotations for Special Occasions by Maud van Buren, 1938, published by The H.W. Wilson Company, New York

Advent Wreath Readers

We are grateful to the following families for assuming responsibility for the Advent Wreath Ceremony this year.

27th November—First Sunday of Advent

The Steele Family

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise

4th December—Second Sunday of Advent

The Olsen Family

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

11th December—Third Sunday of Advent

The Hersom Family

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high
the gateway for the King of glory.

18th December—Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Utley Family

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your light be shining.

24th December—Christmas Eve

The Barghols Family—6:00 pm

The Boullain / Makowski Family—8:00 pm

Congratulations to the Loney Family

Olivia Anna Lynn was born on November 15 at 10:08 am to Amanda and Aaron Loney. She was 9lbs 30z and 20 inches long. She spent 2 days in the NICU and went home on 19 November.

DECEMBER WORSHIP TEXTS



**HAPPY
DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**
to
you....



Liz Dunnigan 12/17
Joe Makowski 12/17
Anna Steppat 12/20
Brook Johnson 12/24
Ellis Petersen 12/27

- 4th Second Sunday of Advent**
First Lesson—Isaiah 40:1-11
Second Lesson—2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel—Mark 1:1-8
- 11th Third Sunday of Advent**
First Lesson—Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
Second Lesson—1Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel—John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent**
First Lesson—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Second lesson—Romans 16: 25-27
Gospel—Luke 1:26-38
- 24th Christmas Eve**
First Lesson—Isaiah 9:2-7
Second lesson—Titus 2:11-14
Gospel—Luke 2:1-14
- 25TH Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day**
First Lesson—Isaiah 62:6-12
Second Lesson—Titus 3:4-7
Gospel—Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

DID YOU KNOW!

Our monthly newsletter is printed FREE because of generous people / companies that advertise. It is true, and we need to let these generous people know that we appreciate them. If you are in need of a car

PLEASE CALL and THANK

Drew Auto Center
8970 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa, CA
619-464-7777

***Make sure you tell them
you heard about them from
our Newsletter!***

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Donna Bohnsack Memorial
Glen Bohnsack

Hazel Knippelmeyer Memorial
Roy & Robin Wheeler

PARISH BUILDER ARTICLES

January 2012 articles,
due in the office by
December 15th

Thank you, Office

DECEMBER PRAYERS

	Scripture	Trust in the Lord
1	Psalm 27:13-14	<i>What God ordains is always good:</i>
2	Psalm 52:8-9	<i>His Will is just and Holy.</i>
3	Psalm 145:6-9	<i>As He directs my life for me,</i>
4	Psalm 86:5,12,13	<i>I follow meek and lowly.</i>
5	Psalm 147: 7-11	<i>My God indeed in every need</i>
6	Psalm 118:28,29	<i>Knows well how He will shield me:</i>
7	Psalm 31: 19-21	<i>To Him then, I will yield me.</i>
8	Colossians 1:13-20	
9	I John 1:9	<i>What God ordains is always good:</i>
10	Psalm 121:5-8	<i>He never will deceive me;</i>
11	James 1:17-18	<i>He leads me in His righteous way,</i>
12	Romans 8:28-30	<i>And Never will He leave me.</i>
13	Romans 8:31-34	<i>I take content what He has sent;</i>
14	Romans 8:35-39	<i>His hand that sends me sadness</i>
15	Isaiah 40:28-31	<i>Will turn my tears to gladness.</i>
16	Psalm 92:12-15	
17	I Peter 1:3-9	<i>What God ordains is always good.</i>
18	Psalm 33:4-9	<i>This truth remains unshaken</i>
19	I Corinthians 1:7-9	<i>Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,</i>
20	Ephesians 2:4-7	<i>I shall not be forsaken.</i>
21	Psalm 34: 8-10	<i>I fear no harm for with His arm</i>
22	Psalm 36: 5-9	<i>He shall embrace and shield me;</i>
23	Ephesians 1: 3-10	<i>So to my God I yield me.</i>
24	Psalm 26: 3-4	
25	Proverbs 1: 6-8	<i>Hymn 760</i>
26	Romans 5: 6-11	<i>Verses 1,2,6</i>
27	Colossians 2: 13-15	<i>LSB</i>
28	Psalm 100: 1-5	
29	Hebrews 8: 10-12	
30	I Thessalonians 4: 15-17	
31	Isaiah 25: 8-9	

DECEMBER WORSHIP TEAMS

NOTE: Please call the office if you rearrange your schedule or cannot attend.

	Reader Altar Guild Sound Technician	<i>Randy Engel Bev Holland Ben Wilson</i>
4th	Communion Assistant—Bread	<i>Rob Horne</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Martha Applegate</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Roger Caldwell</i>
	Communion Assistants —Wine	<i>George Moore & Marge Hersom</i>
	Greeters	<i>Loraine Winger and bonnie Fuller</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Chuck Hersom</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Emily Rose, and Grace Menacher</i>
11th	Communion Assistant—Bread	<i>Marge Hersom</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Darcy Barghols</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Roger Caldwell</i>
	Communion Assistants- Wine	<i>Gene Knippelmeyer & George Moore</i>
	Greeters	<i>Bob Des Lauriers, Chuck Volker</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Grace and Emily Rose Menacher</i>
18th	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Karen Skullerud</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistants —Wine	<i>Cathie Flogel & Joe Makowski</i>
	Greeters	<i>Bob and Marilyn Burns</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles and Makayla Strommenger</i>
24th	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Shirley Carrington 6PM Marge Bitter 8PM</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Mark Menacher (6 and 8 pm)</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Volunteer 6PM / Gail Knippelmeyer 8PM</i>
	Communion Assistant —Wine	<i>Darcy Barghols & Marge Hersom 6PM Marge Bitter & Marilyn Burns 8 PM</i>
	Greeters	<i>Olsens 6PM / Knippelmeyer 8PM?</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Hersom / Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles and Makayla Strommenger</i>

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 pm WSL Advent Festival—Potluck and Guest Speaker</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Counters</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 a.m. Project Day 7:00 p.m. Rebekah Cir.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Facility Mtg. 6:00 Catechism 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:00 a.m. TaiChi</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Jennifer Book Club</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild 8:00 a.m. Jennifer Book Club</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 pm German Christmas Carol Service</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Counters 5:30 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Council</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Facility crew 6:00 Catechism 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 5:00 p.m. Deadline/PB Parish Builder</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Cantata - <i>The Winter Rose</i> 10:15 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Counters</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 a.m. Project Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Facility crew 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild 6:00 Candlelight Service 8:00 Candlelight Service</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Counters</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Facility crew 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5150 WILSON STREET
LA MESA, CA 91942

Phone: 619-463-6633
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Email: office-sllc@att.net

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Dated Material
September 2011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Sunday School for all ages Sundays 10:15 am.

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.