

Parish Rebuilder

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 5150 WILSON ST. LA MESA, CA 91942
619-463-6633 www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

December 2022
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 22 Issue 12

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

Please contact Amy in the office to discuss membership or to arrange an appointment with the pastor:

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

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German Carol Service

December 18th at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th
6:00pm



It's Christmas!

The Advent season is upon us. The tree is up in the church. The lights will shine in the darkness, reminding us that,

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1-5).

Throughout history, God has acted through his word. God's word is by nature act and action. The First Book of Moses recounts, "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness" (Genesis 1:3-4).

The darkness of the void before creation was a darkness which none of us can imagine because the darkness was not just a matter of lack of light. It was a matter of no matter at all, nothing, i.e. no-thing yet existed, not even the "matterlessness" of light itself. God, however, was there, and God made "there" come into being and did so through his word.

For many in our day and age, the material world is all that there is, all that exists. Some very intelligent people spend a lot of time and effort seeking to debunk the notion of God and of creation as his action. They invent numerous theories about how the "big bang" could have happened without a god or the God. It is a lofty task to deny the existence of God, one to which seemingly more and more people are called. We see it everywhere in the world around us, and we also see it in ourselves.

In the midst of God's pristine creation, he created

Adam and Eve, and although there is no biblical evidence that God created Eve towards the end of the day, together our first parents brought the darkness of sin into God's glorious creation. Consequently, despite the earth basking in the light of the sun, each one of us is born into a darkness which prevents us from truly seeing God in all that there is. Whereas Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, the rest of us have been born in sin. So, we seek to fill that darkness with the so-called light of human reason. When one considers the multitude of highly advanced, technical, and intricate ways in which we can kill other human beings, reason's bright ideas paradoxically and tragically contribute to the darkness of our fallen world.

In the dark of night shepherds were watching their flocks. Then, an angel appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. "And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'"

Wrapped in swaddling cloths, concealing his glory, the shepherds found the Christ child, the word of God made flesh, the light of the world in the shadows of a cow shed. For the next three decades, Christ's glory would continue to be concealed. He would join his father in the family trade until the day when he would trade his carpentry skills for a path which would lead to his cross. There, he would give himself for you and for me.

The Advent season is upon us. The tree is up in the church. The lights will shine in the darkness for you and for me. Let us proclaim "the good news of great joy for all the people" and let them know, "It's Christmas!"

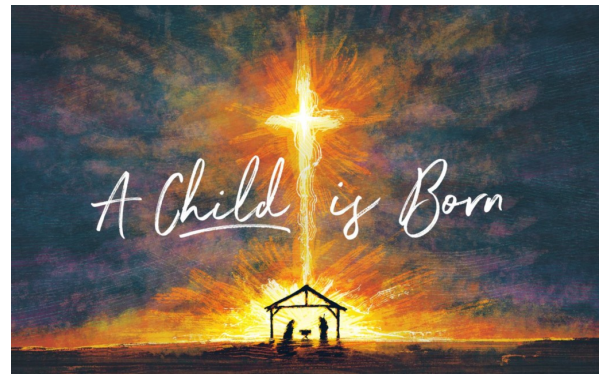
Welcome Reformation Lutheran

As many are aware, Pastor John Kent at Reformation Lutheran Church (RLC) in El Cajon retired in June 2022. Since July, Pastor Mark has been covering both churches with a view to RLC joining St. Luke's in mission and ministry. Beginning on 27 November, the first Sunday in Advent, Reformation Lutheran's members will be joining St. Luke's for combined worship and theological activities. This will constitute a two month "trial period" during which RLC will determine whether they wish to continue their future as a combined parish or whether they wish to go their own way. This is a very important time for both churches. So, please pray for God's guidance and gifts.

India Calls

As information, Pastor Mark has been invited to be one of the speakers at a couple pastors conferences and at a theological symposium in India in the New Year. After leaving the US on 02 January and arriving in Delhi on 03 January, he will travel north to Siliguri in the state of West Bengal and speak there. Then, he and his traveling companions will speak at a weekend conference at the Bethel Church in the little town of Dalsingpara. Finally, they will travel to the theological symposium in Gunter. The city of Gunter is the administrative headquarters of Gunter district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in southeastern India. He returns on 21 January. Please pray for safe travels for him and his theological colleagues.

Pastor Mark



Women of St. Luke's Committee

The Next Quarterly meeting of the Women of St. Luke's will be March 4th at 10:00 AM in the Lower Level. We invite all of St. Luke's Women (and even our men folk) to join our meetings to help us further our activities. We look forward to seeing you all at that time – of course, if not before!

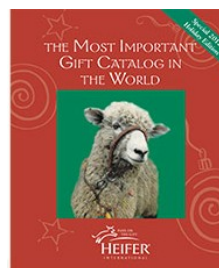
Thank you to all who contributed to making families' Christmas a happy one through the Adopt-a-Family program. We were able to help many families experience a nicer Christmas. The Adopt-a-Family is through Crisis House.

For 50 years, Crisis House has provided programs and services for families and individuals experiencing crisis in East County. We respond immediately to stop the cycle of domestic violence, child abuse, and homelessness and connect families, children, and individuals to crucial resources that empower them to renew their lives. Please see their website for more information.

Karen Skullerud & Nancy Kearns
WSL committee members



HEIFER International



Many members of St. Luke's in past years have given HEIFER Christmas gifts to friends and family. Now is your chance to give again. HEIFER's mission is to end hunger and care for the earth!! This non-profit organization has won so many awards!! and continues to be an inspiration.

HEIFER shopping is a terrific way to begin the Advent Season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH HEIFERS!

\$500 or \$10 per share

GOATS ARE A GLORIOUS GIFT!

\$120 or \$10 per share

CHRISTMAS CHEER OF CHICKS

\$20 per flock

LOVE LLAMAS AND ALPACAS

\$150 or \$20 per share

SWEETEN CHRISTMAS WITH BEES

\$30 per hive

WARM UP WITH A WATER BUFFALO

\$250 or \$25 per share

THREE SCHOOLS OF FISH

\$300 or \$30 per share

BIOGAS STOVES FOR A VILLAGE:

\$1000 or \$50 per stove

SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL

\$275

SHARE OF A MILK MENAGERIE

\$1000 or \$100 per share

HEIFER catalogs are available in the office and narthex or visit them online at **www.heifer.org**



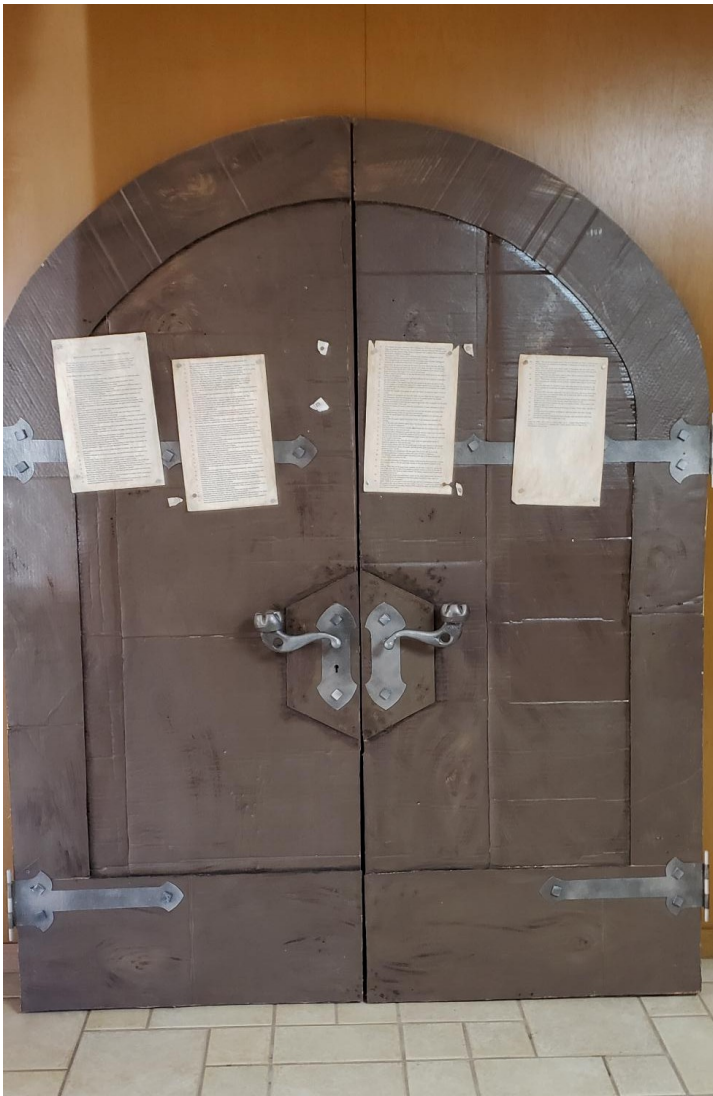
Reformation Celebration & Dinner

October 30,
2022



Pastor Dan Cole & Liz Dunnigan





Joel & Rachel Wohlfeil



Tania & Mario Salas



December Events:

Christmas Tree Decorating Party

December 2nd 6:00pm – 8:00pm

RSVP requested to office

Dinner provided

Advent Luncheon

December 11th at 11:15am

RSVP requested

German Carol Service

December 18th 7:00pm

Refreshments to follow

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 6:00pm

Honor a loved one or cherished person with a Christmas Poinsettia

Poinsettia Orders are being taken through December 18th \$10.00 per plant



Make checks payable to St. Luke's indicate "poinsettia" on the memo line.

Poinsettias can be taken home after Christmas Eve worship services.

Happy Birthday

Debbie Parks 12/6

Raymond Yerger 12/13

Cal Borchardt 12/14

Liz Dunnigan 12/17

Joe Makowski 12/17

Mario Salas 12/18

Donald Smith 12/30

Happy Anniversary

Robin & Roy Wheeler

Jillian & Bob Barnard

Judi & Dan Cole



Advent, (from Latin adventus, “coming”), in the Christian church calendar, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

DECEMBER WORSHIP TEXT

4th—Second Sunday in Advent

First Lesson—Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm 72: 1-7

Second Lesson—Romans 15:4-13

Gospel—Matthew 3: 1-12

11th— Third Sunday in Advent

First Lesson—Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalm 146

Second Lesson—James 5: 7-11

Gospel—Matthew 11: 2-15

18th—Fourth Sunday in Advent

First Lesson—Isaiah 7: 10-17

Psalm 24

Second Lesson—Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel—Matthew 1: 18-25

24th—Christmas Eve

First Lesson— Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm 96

Second Lesson—Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel—Luke 2: 1-20

25th—Christmas Day

First Lesson—Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 2

Second Lesson—Hebrews 1: 1-12

Gospel—John 1: 1-18



December Prayer Calendar

The Savior Comes

1	Isaiah 9: 6-7	<p>1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long; Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.</p> <p>2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.</p> <p>3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure, And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.</p> <p>4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim, And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hymn #35 Lutheran Book of Worship</p>
2	Isaiah 61: 1-3	
3	Isaiah 11: 1-5	
4	Isaiah 40: 1-5	
5	Matthew 12: 18-21	
6	Luke 1: 226-33	
7	Luke 2: 8-14	
8	John 1: 9-18	
9	John 3: 16-21	
10	11 Peter 1: 16-21	
11	Titus 2: 11-14	
12	John 3: 16-18	
13	John 14: 1-7	
14	Philippians 2: 1-11	
15	John 4: 7-14	
16	John 16: 11-15	
17	Matthew 15: 32-39	
18	Matthew 18: 10-14	
19	Mark 7: 31-37	
20	Mark 7: 31-37	
21	Mark 9: 2-8	
22	Luke 13: 31-35	
23	Acts 1: 6-14	
24	Hebrews 9: 1-5a	
25	Romans 8: 26-28	
26	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18	
27	11 Thessalonians 2: 13-17	
28	Isaiah 53: 1-12	
29	1 Peter 1: 3-12	
30	Revelation 1: 4-8	
31	Revelation 22: 12-17	

December Worship Calendar

	Reader	<i>Doris Snashall</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
4th	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Greeter	<i>Terry East</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Acolytes	<i>G Bruflat & Jet Bruflat</i>
	Advent Reader	<i>Salas Family</i>
11th	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Advent Reader	<i>TBD</i>
18th	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Terry East</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>MaryAnn Boullain</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Greeter	<i>Karen Skullerud</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Advent Reader	<i>TBD</i>
	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>
24th	Communion Assistant—Bread	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants—Wine	<i>Ted Olsen & Laurie Floren</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>TBD</i>
	Advent Reader	<i>TBD</i>
25th	Communion Assistant—Wine	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>TBD</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Tai Chi	2 Christmas Tree decorating 6:00 pm	3 9:00 am Altar Guild 10:00am Bible Study 11:15am—WSL
4 9:00am Worship	5 9:00am Counters	6 8:00 am Tai Chi	7 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Pericope/Communion service	8 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:00pm Choir Practice	9	10 9:00 am Altar Guild
11 9:00 m Worship Advent Luncheon	12 1:30pm Counters	13 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day	14 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Pericope/Communion service	15 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:00pm Choir Practice	16	17 9:00 am Altar Guild
18 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 7:00 pm German Service	19 9:00 am Counters	20 8:00 am Tai Chi	21 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Pericope/Communion service	22 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:00pm Choir Practice	23	24 Christmas Eve candlelight Service
	26 1:30pm Counters	27 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day	28 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Pericope/Communion service	29 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:00pm Choir Practice	30	31

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Dated Material
December 2022

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Worship Service: Sundays at 9:00 am.
- Christmas Tree decorating party— December 2nd at 6:00pm.
- Advent Luncheon—December 11 at 11:15am.
- German Carol Service — December 18 at 7:00 pm.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services — December 24th at 6:00pm
- Office closed December 26 & January 2.

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.