



The Parish Builder

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

January 2012
Volume 12 Issue 1
Monthly Newsletter

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, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Table of Contents

Pastor Mark	page 1
General News and Thank-yous	page 2
Outreach /Heifer Intl.	page 4
Parish Potpourri/WSL	page 5
WSL	page 5
Volunteering	page 6
Birthdays / Worship Text/Memorials	page 7
Prayer Calendar	page 8
Worship Teams	page 9
Church Event Calendar	page 10

Official Notice

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

22 January 2012

After Services

For the Person Who Has Everything

For most people, the Christmas season has passed. Liturgically in the church, Christmas extends to Epiphany (06 January). By then, however, most of the festivities have subsided and the post-Christmas sales have been exhausted or have exhausted us.

Christmas is, as they say, the time for giving. From the news reports, one often gets the impression that the state of the US economy and thus the future of the nation depend on strong Christmas sales. Our giving is not just a sign of affection. Apparently, it is also an economic necessity. So, what can one do to save the nation when confronted by having to purchase a gift for someone who apparently has everything (or who has "enough" and does not want a Christmas gift)?

As those people who have "enough" do not understand sinful human nature properly, let us turn our attention to those who have everything or want everything. Having everything must take up considerable room, and the storage costs must be high. Once stored and catalogued, when does one find the time to use everything? Most of us can hardly manage the menagerie of things in our garages and sheds. Imagine having everything, and then imagine those poor, lost souls searching high and low to buy you a gift.

Seeking a gift for the person who has everything is a lost cause, a dead end, a cul de sac with an empty sack. The only person who has everything is, of course, God. Curiously, we human beings talk about giving things to God all the time, especially during stewardship drives or building projects. With the logic above, how-

Continued from page 1

ever, there is surprisingly nothing that we are able to give to God, and worse, the very thought of it is essentially an expression of our sin. How can giving to God be a sin?

So, when we give in church, what are we doing and why are we doing it? Theologically, the divine economy refers to God's handling, dealings, or actions which bring about humanity's salvation from sin and death. In other words, God's gracious giving in creation of us and God's redemption of us through Jesus Christ and God's sanctification of us by the Holy Spirit manifests God's saving economy. God's graciousness is the divine economy! What does that mean for our "giving"?

Our giving in the church, viewed correctly, is basically an extension of God's graciousness shown to us. Perhaps, one could call it a translation of God's graciousness (Latin, *translatus*, "carry across") into the personal and material forms which comprise our world. When Christ carried a cross, he bore our sin and death. In exchange, he then gave us the realities of God's graciousness, namely the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life all received by faith alone.

God's graciousness came to humanity in human form. Likewise, we in the church use our personal and material resources, all originating from God, in service of the divine economy. Servicing the divine economy means teaching and preaching the word of God purely and clearly and faithfully so that real sinners can receive God's graciousness and righteousness by faith alone. How far and how widely will you be extending and translating God's graciousness into the world around you in 2012? - Pastor Mark

Expanded Role for Pastor Rob

You will be seeing more of Pastor Rob Horne in 2012. Pastor Rob is St. Luke's Pastor for Special Projects. Beginning in January, Rob will be with us almost every Sunday morning. In addition to preaching once per month, Rob will start teaching Sunday school for middle and high school ages. He will also lead a youth activity once per month. Very importantly, Rob will lead this year's VBS.

St. Luke's is very blessed to have Pastor Rob serving this parish. We look forward to his expanded role amongst us.

Das war prima! (Very Well Done)

The German Christmas Carol service held on 11 December was a lovely event. With over 75 people in attendance from across San Diego, people gathered to hear, pray, and sing for a brief time in another language. Four of the six Bible readings were read by students from Poway High School. The preacher was Pastor Christoph Weber, a friend of Pastor Mark's, who was spending some Sabbatical time this autumn in Berkeley, California. We wish to thank Pastor Weber for preaching. We also wish to thank Martha Applegate, Michele Dipierro, Angie Hauk and others for their efforts providing numerous delicious refreshments after the service.

Joyful Christmas Cantata

This year's performance of The Winter Rose held on 18 December at St. Luke's Lutheran and Pacific Beach Presbyterian Churches was very well done. We are grateful to Sue Caldwell and Esther Jordan for their direction of this event. We thank them, the instrumentalists, and the choirs for their hard work. Again, we also thank all those who helped erect and dismantle the staging and chairs for this special event.

Many Thanks from Thelma Pace

Thelma Pace expresses her gratitude to all those who have been so kind during her recovery from knee replacement surgery. The guys who play pool with Joe have been so considerate. Others have sent cards and even food. She knows there were many prayers in there too. It is all very much appreciated. While it is a very painful process, Thelma reports that she is doing well and hopes to rejoin our St. Luke's family for worship services soon.

Many Thanks from Robin Wheeler

Robin Wheeler thanks everyone at church for all their prayers, cards, phone calls and visits which she received before and after her breast cancer surgery. Her St. Luke's family is very special to her, and she does appreciate each one of you! Robin says, "Thank you! Thank you!"

Thank-you St. Luke's Volunteers!

A huge thank-you is extended to the ladies who volunteered their time during the month of November at the La Mesa Thrift & Welfare Store. St. Luke's has been involved in this outreach for several years. The thrift store serves the community of La Mesa — via grocery store gift cards and with emergency rations and clothes for low-income La Mesa families. It's been lauded for giving away thousands of new toys to local kids at Christmas over the years. The store also gives financial aid and support to the city's senior center, to its recreation center, to the fire and police departments, to the La Mesa Historical Society, to the Peter Pan Junior Theater, to the city's junior symphony and to the La Mesa Library.

The Thrift Store is located at 8340 Lemon Ave in La Mesa and is open Tuesday through Sat-

urday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

So, "Thank you, Thank you," to Betty Wiedmer, Paula Newak, Shirley Carrington, Loraine Wininger, Darcy Barghols, Martha Applegate, Disa Campbell, Margi Buller, Liz Dunnigan, and Marie Handley. You are so appreciated! - Robin Wheeler

Thank-you from Helix Support Center

Dear St. Luke's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation for our homeless students and families this year and last. We were able to help a number of students last year with clothes, school supplies, and holiday gifts. One unaccompanied homeless student was able to get his first professional attire for speeches and job interviews. A young pregnant and homeless student was able to buy some items for when the baby was born. Another student was able to get a new set of clothes when their house was destroyed by fire.

We are extremely grateful for your help for these students who had no other support system. While we wish our families did not have this level of need, we are so grateful for your giving which allows us to help them through difficult times.

Thank you,

Danielle Yee,

Helix Support Center

A Thanksgiving Thank-you

"Thank you so much for the gift card. As always it makes our Thanksgiving dinner memorable and tasty - God bless you all. Donna Lewis"

Our On-going Outreach

The Family in Need

Heartfelt thanks to all the very generous members of St. Luke's who contributed toward helping this family that needs so much! As of "press time" you all had given \$1515 for their needs.

And additional special thanks go to the Women of St. Luke's for their immediate response when they found out how crucial it was to act quickly so that this family's belongings would not end up in a dumpster! The family's outstanding storage bill was paid.

The Outreach Committee will very soon make a decision on the best way to help them with their financial problems.

GOD MUST BE SMILING!

New Outreach Chair and Member

Terry East is assuming the chair of the Outreach Committee. Margi Buller is also joining the Committee as a new member. Both ladies will bring new insight and enthusiasm to the committee's endeavors!! Welcome Terry and Margi!

TACO

We will be serving twice in January: on Monday, January 2, and on Monday, January 30. If you would like to serve, mark it on your calendar and let the church office know.

Since Pastor Mark's email indicating the need for warm clothes, sleeping bags, quilts/blankets, etc. for the homeless (the message was sent at Randy Engel's request), many items have already been taken to First Lutheran by Randy. Thanks to all who checked their closets for appropriate items to give to TACO. (See PARISH POTPOURRI for more info on all that Randy contributes!)

According to Jim Lovell, Executive Director of TACO, sleeping bags, tarps and other equipment to make life a bit warmer and drier

have been given out to the homeless through the "Christmas in July" appeal. Here is a paragraph taken from TACO's monthly newsletter:

"Each year we rely on more than 400 volunteers serving meals, we rely on five graduate programs to provide life-saving clinics, and more than 800 donors, large and small alike, to help us keep our doors open, the food cooking, and healing happening. We are so blessed to begin a new year with such support."

Heifer International

So, what is your favorite animal, and why?

A program officer for Heifer, Dilip Bhandari, votes for goats! Mr. Bhandari, a program officer (and a veterinarian) for Asia/South Pacific programs was born and raised on a small family farm in south-central Nepal. He knows firsthand the value of animals, as income from water buffalo covered all of his family's necessary expenses, including his own school fees.

After leaving Nepal and receiving his master's degree in veterinary medicine in South Korea, Dr. Bhandari has for five years been working at Heifer's headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Why does this man vote for goats? He says the goat's temperament and size make it widely adaptable and ideal for families with limited resources, the primary target group of Heifer support. Being ruminant it does not compete with humans for food, and it is hardy and can thrive and reproduce in all climatic zones. Goats are also low maintenance in the areas of handling, housing and health care. The goat is one of the animals of choice for Heifer project communities around the world as their lower cost helps Heifer reach more families in need.

Please remember that there is no "special time" to buy a goat or a share of a goat. Consider giving a goat or a share of one as an alternative gift the next time you need to give a present but cannot think of what to buy that person who already has everything.

Shopping for Lutheran Border Concerns

Thanks to a \$200 contribution from the Church Council, several members of the Outreach Committee (Cathie Floegel, Terry East, Martha Barrer and Martha Applegate) hit the Grossmont Target store recently to purchase toys for the children in Tijuana. (You probably noticed the toys in the narthex prior to their being picked up by LBCM.) Most of these toys will be distributed by the Ministry to children in the Lutheran churches on the other side of the border. It's not too late for members of St. Luke's to come forward with additional appropriate toys and/or socks. These are given out through Epiphany, so you can do some shopping for this purpose after Christmas, too.

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

Travelers during the holidays: MARGI and DAVE BULLER'S son, JORDAN and wife, MICHELE (married just a year), will be spending Christmas in Switzerland where MICHELE has relatives.....CATHIE and RICH FLOEGEL will be on a cruise for a week, accompanied by their only daughter and her family.....One of St. Luke's unsung heroes is RANDY ENGEL. In case you did not know, RANDY helps serve at TACO every Monday evening. He helps organize the serving line, is right there when more salad or soup is needed and is much appreciated by the staff at TACO. Give RANDY a hug and/or a handshake in "thanks" when you see him at worship services (usually ushering).

Service to others is a way of life in Christ!

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.

Want Coffee?

Many thanks to Aaron and Summer Steele, Jim Thomas 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.

December 9, 2011

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

Dear members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your support of Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) as we provide for the homeless, elderly, and low income persons residing in the downtown San Diego area.

Thank you especially to the group of people who deliver the Panera Bakery donations each Friday morning. Thank you to Marge and Vic Bitter, Margi and Dave Buller, George Hauk, Marge and Chuck Hersom, and Gene Knippelmeyer. We also remember Hazel Knippelmeyer and thank God for her time of service as well.

The high quality bread and other goodies from Panera are such treats for our guests. We are so thankful to receive their donation.

Thank you for coordinating that pick-up and for those who wake up early Friday morning to get it downtown in time for the meal.

We are blessed to have the support of churches like yours.

Again, thank you for your support of TACO.

Blessings,



Rachel Line
Volunteer Coordinator



Third Avenue Charitable Organization, Inc.

"...gathering as a community in service with the most vulnerable among us..."

1420 Third Avenue, San Diego, California 92101
Phone (619) 235-9445 • Fax (619) 235-9422

HAPPY
January
BIRTHDAYS
to you ...



Vic Bitter - ??

Robert Newak - 11 January

Betty Wiedmer - 14 January

Patricia Swanson - 18 January

Don Rigopoulos - 18 January

Martha Barrer - 25 January

Angie Hauk - 26 January

Betty Davies - 28 January

George Parcels - 29 January

Colleen Olsen - 29 January

JANUARY WORSHIP TEXT

01st Second Sunday of Christmas
 First Lesson—Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Second Lesson—Galatians 4:4-7
 Gospel—Luke 2:22-40

08th Sunday of Epiphany
 First Lesson—Isaiah 60:1-6
 Second Lesson—Ephesians 3:1-12
 Gospel—Matthew 2:1-12

15th Second Sunday after Epiphany
 First Lesson—1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
 Second lesson—1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Gospel—John 1:43-51

22th Third Sunday after Epiphany
 First Lesson—Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Second lesson—1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Gospel—Mark 1:14-20

29th Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
 First Lesson—Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Second Lesson—1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Gospel—Mark 1:21-28

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Due to a variety of reasons, we are a little behind
 acknowledging gifts and memorials

DID YOU KNOW!

Our monthly newsletter is
 printed FREE because of gener-
 ous people / companies that
 advertise. It is true, and we need
 to let these generous people
 know that we appreciate them.
 If you need to buy or sell prop-
 erty ...

PLEASE CALL and THANK
Randy & Gene Engel
 Top Producing Agents for
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 34 Year's Experience
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*Make sure you tell them
 you heard about them from
 the St Luke's Parish Builder*

PARISH BUILDER ARTICLES

**February 2012 articles are
 due in the office by
 January 16th**

Thank you, Judy

JANUARY PRAYERS

	Scripture	For Your Gifts
1	Psalm 148: 1-6	<i>For your Creation</i>
2	Genesis 1: 27-28	<i>For Life</i>
3	Genesis 1: 29-30	<i>For Daily Bread</i>
4	Psalm 97: 10-12	<i>For Deliverance</i>
5	Ephesians 2: 11-15	<i>For Peace</i>
6	Ephesians 2: 1-8	<i>For Love</i>
7	Exodus 34: 6-7a	<i>For Mercy</i>
8	John 3: 16-17	<i>For Your Son</i>
9	Proverbs 2: 1-8	<i>For Wisdom</i>
10	Titus 3: 4-7	<i>For Salvation</i>
11	Hebrews 4: 14-16	<i>For Our High Priest</i>
12	Hebrews 7: 23-25	<i>For Your Intercession</i>
13	Acts 2: 38-39	<i>For Your Spirit</i>
14	Ephesians 1: 7-10	<i>For Forgiveness</i>
15	I Peter 1: 3-5	<i>For Your Inheritance</i>
16	Revelations 1; 4-6	<i>For Freedom</i>
17	I John 1: 1-4	<i>For Fellowship</i>
18	James 1: 2-4	<i>For Trials</i>
19	I Peter 1: 22-25	<i>For The Word</i>
20	Romans 5: 1-5	<i>For Hope</i>
21	Romans 5: 15-17	<i>For Your Righteousness</i>
22	Romans 3: 21-26	<i>For Your Justification</i>
23	Ephesians 2: 4-7	<i>For Grace</i>
24	Isaiah 40: 28-31	<i>For Strength</i>
25	Ephesians 2: 8-9	<i>For Faith</i>
26	Romans 6: 3-4	<i>For Baptism</i>
27	Romans 5: 9-11	<i>For Reconciliation</i>
28	2 Corinthians 1: 3-7	<i>For Comfort</i>
29	Ephesians 4: 4-8	<i>For Grace</i>
30	2 Corinthians 1: 19-20	<i>For Your Promises</i>
31	James 1: 17-18	<i>For Every Perfect Gift</i>

JANUARY WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader Altar Guild Sound Technician	<i>Marge Hersom Bev Holland Ben Wilson</i>
1st	Communion Assistant– Bread	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Martha Applegate</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Roger Caldwell</i>
	Communion Assistants —Wine	<i>George Moore & Karen Skullerud</i>
	Greeters	<i>MaryAnn Boullain & Joe Makowski</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Chuck Hersom</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles & Makayla Strommenger</i>
8th	Communion Assistant—Bread	<i>Cathie Floegel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Liz Dunnigan</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Communion Assistants– Wine	<i>Gene Knippelmeyer & George Moore</i>
	Greeters	<i>Loraine Wininger/</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles & Makayla Strommenger</i>
15th	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Rob Horne</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>George Moore</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Roger Caldwell</i>
	Communion Assistants —Wine	<i>Cathie Floegel & Joe Makowski</i>
	Greeters	<i>Bev Holland/</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Emily Rose & Grace Menacher</i>
22nd	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Terry East</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Bonnie Fuller</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistant —Wine	<i>Marilyn Burns & Karen Skullerud</i>
	Greeters	<i>Martha Barrer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Emily Rose & Grace Menacher</i>
29th	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Joe Makowski</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Liz Dunnigan</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistant —Wine	<i>Liz Dunnigan & Darcy Barghols</i>
	Greeters	<i>Dawn & Jim Dolan</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Chuck Hersom</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Emily Rose and Grace Menacher</i>

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	2 9:00 a.m. Counters	3 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 a.m. Project Day 7:00 p.m. Rebekah Cir.	4 8:30 a.m. Facility Mtg.	5 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 a.m. Outreach 10:00 a.m. Deborah Cir	6	7 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
8 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	9 9:00 a.m. Counters 5:30 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Council	10 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	11 8:30 a.m. Facility crew 6:00 pm Catechism	12 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	13	14 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
15 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	16 9:00 a.m. Counters 5:00 pm Deadline for Parish Builder	17 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 a.m. Project Day	18 8:30 a.m. Facility crew 6:00 pm Catechism 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	19 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	20	21 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
22 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School	23 9:00 a.m. Counters	24 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	25 8:30 a.m. Facility crew 6:00 m Catechism 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	26 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	27	28 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
29 9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School	30 9:00 am Counters	31 8:00 am Tai Chi				

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5150 WILSON STREET
LA MESA, CA 91942

Phone: 619-463-6633
Webpage: www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org
Email: office-sllc@att.net

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EL CAJON, CA
PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material
December 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.