

Parish Rebuilder

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

619-463-6633 www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

January 2018
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 18 Issue 1

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

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

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Children's Choir Performance

January 14

SLTA courses start

January 14, 16 & 18

Hoirup Concert

January 14 at 4:00pm

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

January 28

New Year! New Life?

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4).

In Christianity, there has always been a tension between the spirit and the flesh, the new man and the old man, the life in Christ and the life in the world. Things would be simpler if that tension did not exist in each of us and if we could somehow gain the upper hand. When society generally followed basic biblical morals, things seemed easier in that societal and legal restraints and consequences helped sinners from straying too much. That is the right and proper function of the first use of the law.

That outward guidance and at times coercion, however, masked the sinner lurking in all human beings who was sinning in thought, even if not so much in word and deed, as we regularly confess. If one was fortunate, one also had enough familiarity with the Bible to have been given a healthy conscience instilled by its teachings. This biblical foundation could help with knowing which thoughts were leading one astray.

St. Paul was not, however, talking to people in a Christianized society. Many of Jewish background had familiarity with the scriptures, but Bibles were not readily available for everyone to read. Those converted from paganism had little or no understanding of biblically based morality. Additionally, neither group had any knowledge of the new life in Christ

because it was new!

Two thousand years later, biblical ethics and morality are very much on the wane in western societies, and the hostility to such seems to daily. What was once good, is now bad, and vice versa to the point that being versed in vice is apparently virtuous. Fascinating and tragic at the same time, may Christians who view Jesus as being counter-cultural have turned against basic biblical values in order to be part of paganism's attempts to counter Christianized cultural values.

These dynamics often interact in a legalistic way, and the courts are increasingly occupied by those who wish to take legal action against biblically minded Christians. As important as the legal rights and battles may be, none of that has much to do with the new life which only Christ and his gospel can bring. If the law could do the trick, then just about any society or religion or mixture of the two would have good chance of making sinful human beings good. History, however, shows no examples of that having happened, and even the people of the Old Testament failed miserably time and again. The law cannot cure, but it can and does kill.

So, the only possibility of life comes from the new life in Christ because only he has been raised from the dead and thus has conquered sin, the law, and death. This new life only comes from the pure proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that gospel says that there is nothing that we can do either to effect our salvation or to improve ourselves. Instead, preventing ourselves from sinning is about the best that we can do, but even that does nothing for our salvation.

This leaves human beings often feeling very dissatisfied. Restraining sinfulness does nothing for salvation, but not restraining sin, i.e. acting upon it, can undermine one's salvation. That hardly seems an equal playing field. In a sense, one "is damned if you do, and damned if you don't." If it were any other way, then humanity would not need a saviour but merely a helper.

So, which kind of death would we prefer, death according to sin, the law, and the flesh, or death to the sin, the law, and the flesh as granted through the gospel and baptism of Christ? The choice is not ours to make, but God's who has already made it in Christ. If that notion grates, then the sinner in you is alive but sadly very unwell. Who will save us from these bodies of death? None other than the one who died and was raised to save us from ourselves. That does not happen with a new year but instead happens daily by virtue of baptism in Christ's death and resurrection.

New Church Council

As a reminder, St. Luke's newly elected church council consists of Judi Dunnigan (President), Tom Stubbs (Vice President), Tania Salas (Secretary), Jeremy Martinson (Treasurer), and Richard Utley (Parish Education). The new council will be installed on Sunday, 14 January.

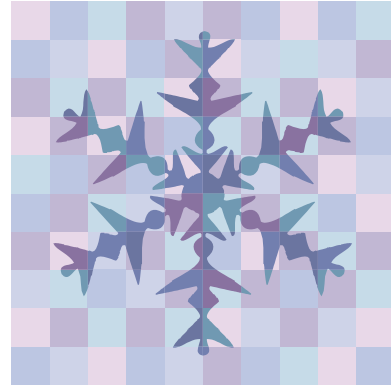
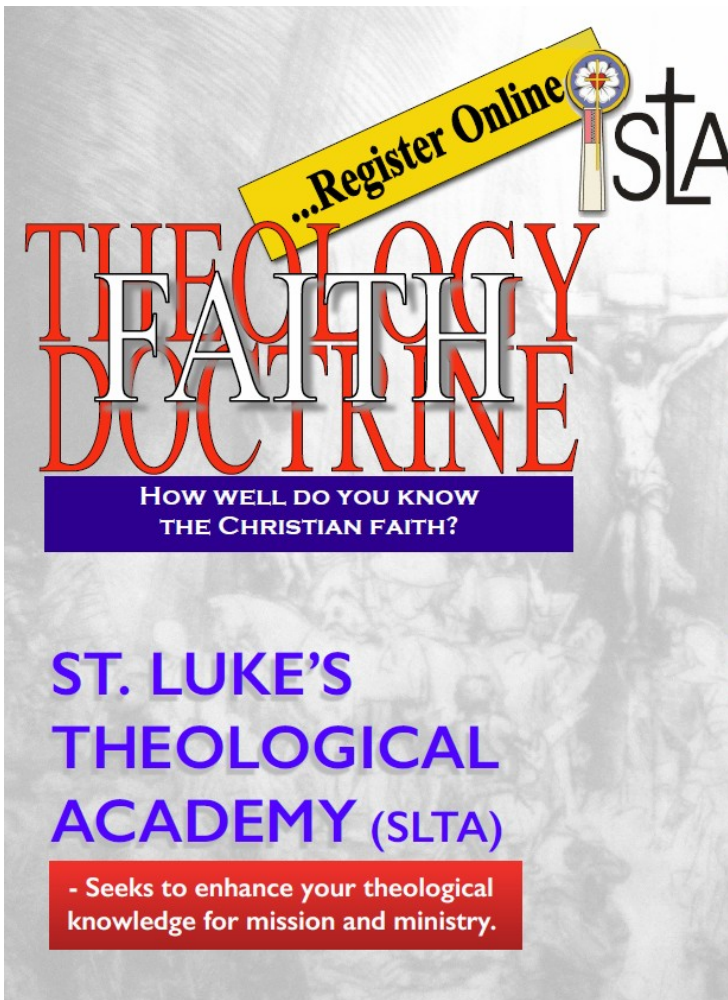
Theological Academy's First Graduates

We wish to congratulate Bill and Diane Svensson for being the first individuals to complete all six modules toward achieving St. Luke's Theological Academy's Diploma in Theological Studies. These modules included Foundations of the Christian Faith, Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History and Doctrine, Reformation Theology, and Worship and Music. Bill and Diane completed their last required module in November 2017. Congratulations!

Academy Classes Begin in January

St. Luke's Theological Academy is offering the following courses in January: Foundations of the Christian Faith (Sunday, 14 January at 4:00 pm), The Lutheran Difference (Tuesday, 16 January at 7:00 pm), Reformation Theology (Thursday, 18 January at 7:00 pm), and Principles of Biblical Interpretation (Thursday, 18 January at 7:00 pm). The Foundations course is free. The other three courses have a \$25.00 fee. Is an SLTA Diploma in Theological Studies in your future?

Pastor Mark



Come listen to the pipes!

*First Methodist Church invites you to take break in your busy day.
Sit down, relax and enjoy the beautiful music played on a 108-rank,
4-manual Blackinton and Associates Pipe Organ,
the largest pipe organ in San Diego County.*

January 10, 2018

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

FIRST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN MISSION VALLEY

Renee Calvo

Director of Music & Organist at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, La Mesa, CA.
AND

Kate Cameron

Organist at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, San Diego, CA

Congregational Happenings

Renee Calvo—organ concert

First United Methodist Church of San Diego

January 10th at 11:30am

Hoirup Concert

January 14th at 4:00pm

St. Luke's Theological Academy

Classes begin January 14th, 16th & 18th

4:00pm & 7:00pm

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

January 28th

SOME HUMOR

Some ways to deal with the burdens of life:

Drive carefully; it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is to be kind to others.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

Martha Applegate

Women of St. Luke's

The holidays are over and we are back to normal (almost – still putting stuff away). After the Christmas season whirlwind of events and feasts it is great to just sit back and recuperate.

But WSL continues to stay busy. Since first order of business is electing and installing our new board, I want to thank the 2017 board for their dedication to the goals and their willingness to do the work necessary to meet those goals. They are: Mary Ann Boullain, Angie Hauk, JoAnn Hendrickson, Martha Applegate, Shirley Carrington, Liz Dunnigan, Marilyn Burns, Dawn Dolan and Darcy Barghols. Assisting as circle leader was Betty Wiedmer. In addition, the WSL board is indebted to Amy Hoffman for her assistance in every meeting and every event. There are many others who are not board members, but participate as circle members, project ladies and volunteer for events. Thank you. We had a great 2017 and with God's help 2018 will be even better.

WSL contributed \$5,709 to local charities in 2017. This was possible with your support and hard work. Thank you.

The WSL Constitution and Bylaws are completed. They will be mailed to each active female member for approval. Since every active female member is a member of WSL, this constitution is YOUR constitution. Please review and respond as directed.

The next event WSL will support is the February craft fair on February 22—24. We earn money from selling tickets for the basket drawing. My attitude has often been, I never win, so why buy a ticket. When I don't buy a ticket, I will not win, but WSL loses. Please plan to attend and support WSL by purchasing tickets. This is a new year, you may win.

WSL wishes each of you a very happy, healthy, and blessed new year.

Nancy Kearns

WSL President

Book Club with a new twist!

Joyce Tepfer, who leads Shadow Mt. Servant Ministry came to share *Josie's Gift* with the St. Luke's Book Club and other members of our congregation. Josie's message was about wanting a beautiful blue sweater, with 6 pearl buttons for Christmas. Josie's father had passed the previous year making it very difficult for her mother to purchase any gifts for the children. Well, this sweater does appear and it brought warmth to the heart of an infant and mother who had nothing. Josie acquired a new appreciation and understanding of gift giving. Our hearts were touched. We finished off the afternoon with a delightful tea. We were so pleased with the attendance that we will keep you posted when another author or presenter comes to share their story.



Joyce Tepfer

2018 selections thus far:

January:

The Passion of Artemisia by Susan Vreeland

February :

The Nest by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

March :

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

Join us on the last Wednesday of the month at noon in the library for a potluck lunch and discussion.

December Moments



Parish Potpourri

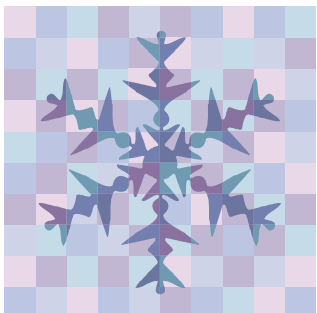
The German Worship service was enjoyed by approximately ninety people. A special part of the service this year was a flute solo by TORI HAUKE, beautifully played just a few hours after she arrived on vacation from the Bay area where she teaches.

Estella Schweikert welcomed a new baby granddaughter recently, born the same day Estella moved into her new apartment in Santee. There were a few complications, but grandmother, mother, and baby girl (over nine and a half pounds!) named Savannah Victoria are doing well.

Two retirees are welcoming 2018: Ted Olsen, retiring from his position as a Senior Agricultural Standards Inspector (you read about Ted in the September issue of the REBUILDER), and Joe Makowski, retiring after nearly twenty-two years of working for the Macron Company.

Looking ahead at the beginning of 2018, a number of members will have significant birthdays. Our oldest member is Marge Henkel, who will be 103 years of age on February 1. Celebrating her 95th birthday will be Beverly Newak; turning 94 will be Marge Bitter and George Jenkins, while Betty Wiedmer will be 92 years young! 1927 was the birth year for Beverly Carson, Marilyn Burns, Marie Handley, Beverly Holland, Clara Collins and Ellis Petersen: all will be celebrating being over 90 years of age!! We wish all continued good health and much happiness as they celebrate with friends and families.

Martha Applegate



St. Luke's Stewards

This is part of an ongoing look at some of this congregation's STEWARDS. You will read about their professions and perhaps learn a little of where they came from and how they came to be at St. Luke's.

Jeremy Martinson, along with his family, has been a member of St. Luke's for three years; he has been St. Luke's Treasurer for two years. Katie and Jeremy have three children (soon to be four): Drew is 6, Molly is 4, and Chase is 2.

Jeremy has been a financial and income tax strategist for fifteen years, recently guiding St. Luke's through its financial dealings and has had a role in bookkeeping and payroll policies. He is owner and CFO of Bamboo Wealth Strategies and the companies with which it is affiliated. He did his undergraduate and graduate work in Finance at San Diego State University.

Along the way he was a scuba diving instructor, among other interests, and is now Drew's soccer coach. Jeremy is also on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of East County and is treasurer of the La Mesa Historical Society. The Martinson home on Date Street, not far above downtown La Mesa, is an historic place, designated as Landmark No. 2 on the La Mesa list of historic homes. The couple has made many improvements and changes to the home, built in 1910, including incorporating lots of drought-tolerant landscaping. As you can imagine, the Martinson home is a lively place and abounds with plenty of energy, energy needed.

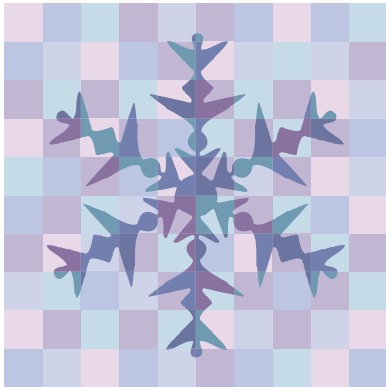


Happy January Birthday

Victor Bitter 1/5
 Betty Wiedmer 1/14
 Charlotte Utley 1/18
 Robert Newak 1/19
 Martha Barrer 1/25
 Angie Hauk 1/26
 Colleen Olsen 1/29
 George Parcells 1/29

Happy Anniversary

The Steppats
 The Parks



JANUARY WORSHIP TEXT

6th Epiphany of Our Lord

First Lesson — Isaiah 60: 1-6
 Second Lesson — Ephesians 3: 1-12
 Gospel — Matthew 2: 1-12

7th Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson — Genesis 1: 1-5
 Second Lesson — Acts 19: 1-7
 Gospel — Mark 1: 4-11

14th Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson — 1 Samuel 3: 1-20
 Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Gospel Lesson — John 1: 43-51

21st Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson — Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
 Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
 Gospel — Mark 1: 14-20

28th Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson — Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
 Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
 Gospel — Mark 1: 21-28

Auto Repair needs in your future?

Contact **Express Auto Service** for you repair needs **619-463-1484**

Located at 7633 El Cajon Blvd. #300
 La Mesa, CA 91942

Each month our newsletter is published for free due to the advertisements of local businesses..

Please take a moment each month and see if the services they provide could help you

January Prayer Calendar

“The Peace of God”

1	Numbers 6: 22-27	
2	Isaiah 9: 6-7	
3	Isaiah 32: 14-18	<i>Peace to soothe our bitter woes,</i>
4	Luke 1: 76-79	<i>God in Christ on us bestow;</i>
5	Luke 2: 11-14	<i>Jesus bought our peace with God</i>
6	Isaiah 55: 10-13	<i>With his holy, precious blood;</i>
7	Zechariah 9: 9-10	<i>Peace in Him for sinners found</i>
8	Psalms 63: 1-8	<i>Is the Gospel's joyful sound.</i>
9	Romans 5: 1-8	
10	Ephesians 2: 13-18	<i>Peace within the Church still dwells</i>
11	John 16: 29-33	<i>In her welcomes and farewells;</i>
12	James 3: 17-18	<i>And through God's baptismal power</i>
13	Psalms 59: 16-17	<i>Peace surrounds our dying hour.</i>
14	Galatians 5: 22-25	<i>Peace be with you, full and free,</i>
15	John 14: 25-28	<i>Now and through eternity.</i>
16	Isaiah 26: 1-4	
17	Psalms 23: 1-6	<i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i>
18	Philippians 4: 4-7	<i>Hymn # 338</i>
19	Colossians 3: 15-17	<i>Verses 1 & 2</i>
20	Philippians 4: 8-9	
21	Psalms 29: 10-11	
22	Romans 15: 8-13	
23	Colossians 1: 15-20	
24	2 Corinthians 13: 11-14	
25	Ephesians 4: 1-6	
26	Ephesians 6: 13-15	
27	1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24	
28	Hebrews 13: 20-21	
29	Psalms 43: 1-3	
30	Revelations 7: 13-17	
31	Psalms 103: 13-22	

JANUARY WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Estella Schweikert</i>
	Sound Technician	<i>Matt Kirk</i>
7th	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gil Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Thelma Pace and Terry East</i>
	Greeters	<i>Ellis Petersen and Loraine Wininger</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stuart Olsen and Paige Yerger</i>
14th	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Terry East</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Tania Salas</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Liz Dunnigan and Karen Skullerud</i>
	Greeters	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Chuck Hersom</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Brooke Klomp and Madison Klomp</i>
21st	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Mary Ann Boullain</i>
	Projectionist	<i>John Busker</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Darcy Barghols and Thelma Pace</i>
	Greeters	<i>Marilyn Burns and Marie Handley</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stuart Olsen and Paige Yerger</i>
28th	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Martha Applegate</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Terry East</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Darcy Barghols and Karen Skullerud</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Brooke Klomp and Madison Klomp</i>

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office/Campus closed	2 9:00 am Counters Noon WSL	3 11:00 am Staff	4	5	6 9-10 am Altar Guild
7 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	8 9:00 am Counters	9 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 12:30 pm Rebekah Circle	10 11:00 am Staff	11 8:00 am Tai Chi	12	13 9-10 am Altar Guild
14 9:00 am Worship Children's choir performance 10:30 am Sunday School 4:00 pm SLTA 4:00pm Hoirup Concert	15 Office/Campus closed	16 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:00 am Counters 7:00 pm SLTA	17 11:00 am Staff	18 8:00 am Tai Chi 10:30 am Deborah Circle 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm SLTA	19	20 9-10 am Altar Guild
21 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm SLTA	22 9:00 am Counters	23 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 7:00 pm SLTA	24 11:00 am Staff	25 8:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm SLTA	26	27 9-10 am Altar Guild
28 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 4:00 pm SLTA	29 9:00 am Counters	30 8:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm SLTA	31 11:00 am Staff Noon Book Club			

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Dated Material
JANUARY 2018

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.
- Sunday School for all ages: Sundays, at 10:30am.
- St. Luke's Theological Academy courses begin January 14, 16 & 18
- Hoirup Concert—January 14th at 4:00pm
- Congregational Quarterly Meeting—January 28th after service.

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.