



# Parish Rebuilder

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

[www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org)

March 2026  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 26 Issue 3

**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](mailto:office-sllc@att.net)

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## Why?

Story has it from a friend that a first year philosophy professor's semester final exam had one question, "Why?" According to the story, some students wrote copious quantities of text attempting to answer the simple but seemingly all encompassing question. Two other students replied with great brevity. One answered, "Why not?" The other stated, "Because." The first short answer received a grade of "A-." The second answer received an "A."

Why? is an important question in life, and young children often seem to know only that question as they ask it seemingly incessantly. Why do we do what we do at any age of our lives? More perplexing is why other people do what they do.

For example, if one went to a brain surgeon, and the surgeon said that one needed surgery, one might want to know why. If the surgeon replied, "Because that is the way that I have always done it." With that reply, one might seek a second opinion. If one went for that second opinion, and that surgeon also wanted to do brain surgery. One might again ask, "Why?" If that surgeon should reply, "Surgery is the art of cutting to make people better. I am a



surgeon, and performing surgery makes me feel good about myself,” then again one might question the reasoning for the operation. What if one visited a third surgeon who simply said that his or her surgeries always end in death? How keen might one be to see his or her scheduling nurse?

We often wonder not only what we do in church but also why we do what we do as a church. Why do we do things a certain way and not another way, like other congregations, especially those which seem to have more members? More basically, however, why are we here at all? More theologically, Christians and non-Christians alike often ask why Jesus went to the cross. Couldn't God have found another way to effect humanity's salvation?

We human beings like to contemplate this question. Theologians over the years have replied with many answers. Some answers are based on scripture and some are based on philosophy and others still on personal disposition and supposition. Some replies lay the blame for Jesus' death at the hands of the Jews or the Romans or even God himself. In the last case, we often hear that Jesus died to appease God's wrath or to make satisfaction for our sin. All of these replies avoid the real culprit. We sinful human beings killed Jesus. We cannot shift the blame. We sinful human beings are the guilty party.

So, why are we here at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and why do we do what we do in all that we do? Although we sinful human beings killed Jesus, God our Father raised him from the dead not only to remind us who God is but also to show us that God's power to forgive rests not in death or in life. Instead, God's power to forgive does not rest.

Anyone can set up and run a religious organization. Millions of such organizations now exist in the world. Some do things the way that they have always done it before. Some do things because their activities make them feel good. The reasons why religious organizations exist and act are too numerous to list, or perhaps even to imagine.

Christians state that theology, the word of God, pertains to one simple relationship, the sinful human being and the God who justifies sinners. Christ's cross and resurrection, and our participation therein through Holy Baptism, are not a simple or a complex "operation" to make us do the same thing "religiously" or to make us feel good about ourselves. Instead, God seeks the total death of our sin precisely in order to make us totally new creations as a free gift received through faith alone because of Christ alone.

So, why are we here? Why would we want to die to ourselves? Do we really

want to die to ourselves? We already have the answer given to us by St. Paul in his letter to the church in Rome, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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 6:3-4). We are here because God’s gift of the gospel has raised each one of us up from the powers of sin and death and all evil to live as part of the body of Christ and thus to live as a gift of the gospel to one another.

## Holy Week Observances and Easter Celebrations

Please be reminded that Holy Week observances and Easter celebrations arrive in the first few days of April. Maundy Thursday falls on 02 April with a service at 7:00 pm, and St. Luke’s Good Friday service takes place on 03 April also at 7:00 pm. St. Luke’s is again planning to hold an Easter Egg Hunt with light lunch on Saturday, 04 April. Richard Deal is already planning a very special celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday, 05 April, with guest musicians and much fanfare. Please mark your calendars and invite family and friends to join you for these special events.



Dear Women of St. Luke's,

When I graduated from High School, my Sunday School Teachers "gifted" me with the following verse –

Deuteronomy 31:8 –

"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you;

He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

I remember feeling a bit concerned about the parts of this verse that seemed to foreshadow struggles, hardships, and difficult times ahead. I held tightly to the first part that assured me that God would go before me and be with me in whatever I encountered. Walking the days and years of my life so far has proven that we, indeed, live in a broken world and confirmed that there are plenty of struggles in our lives, both experiential and emotional. Oh, how we need God's very present help and the assurance of His presence daily!

We are in the midst of Lent – forty days focusing on Jesus' sacrifice for you and me, leading up to the remembrance of his death on the cross and the celebration of His glorious resurrection for our salvation.

Sometimes the hurts and struggles of life, the sickness and weariness of our brokenness physically and emotionally, and the resulting feelings of inadequacy and weakness seem to keep us secluded and struggling really to embrace the fullness of God's love and grace.

Charlotte Elliot was a woman who lived from 1789 to 1871. Much of her life she struggled with serious illness and spiritual doubts. She wrote a poem in 1835 that later became a well known hymn. Its words speak to my spirit. I pray they touch yours, too.

Just as I am – without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me.  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,

Just as I am – though tossed about  
 With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
 Fightings and fears within, without,  
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – poor, wretched blind;  
 Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
 Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thy love unknown  
 Has broken every barrier down;  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, of that free love  
 The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
 Here for a season, then above,  
 O Lamb of God, I come!

My friends, our God loves us so much. He sent Jesus to die for our sin and draw us close to Himself.

Let's look to Him and receive His promise to go daily before us and be with us in all our encounters.

May we, with Charlotte, say, "Just as I am ... O Lamb of God, I come!"

In His Service,

*Laurie*



**Hosts for March**

March 1, 2026— Jennifer Killion

March 8, 2026— Pending host

March 15, 2026— Pending host

March 22, 2026— Janan Laursen

March 29, 2026— Terry East

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**



## MARCH WORSHIP TEXTS

### Second Sunday in Lent — March 1, 2026

First Lesson — Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 121

Second Lesson — Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

Gospel — John 3:1-17

### Third Sunday in Lent — March 8, 2026

First Lesson — Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95:1-9

Second Lesson — Romans 5:1-8

Gospel — John 4:5-26

### Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 15, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 42:14-21

Psalm 142

Second Lesson — Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel — John 9:1-41

### Fifth Sunday in Lent — March 22, 2026

First Lesson — Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Second Lesson — Romans 8:1-11

Gospel — John 11:17-27, 38-53

### Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion — March 29, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 118:19-29

Second Lesson — Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel — John 12:12-19



Henry Reisert	3/6
Robin Wheeler	3/9
Mary Ann Boullain	3/10
Katrina Wilborn	3/11
Carol Prior	3/13
David Emerson	3/14
Stuart Olsen	3/23
Scott Brown	3/24



Rick & Nancy Parkhurst	3/23
Colleen & Ted Olsen	3/29

## MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

### “Glory Be to Jesus”

1	Isaiah 25:6-9	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grace and life eternal In that blood I find; Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hymn #433</i></p>
2	Ps 86:9-13	
3	John 13:31	
4	II Thes 1:1-12	
5	I Peter 4:7-11	
6	Psalms 145:1-21	
7	John 17:1-10	
8	Matt 24:29-31	
9	Matt 25:31-40	
10	Eph 1:7-10	
11	2 Cor 4:3-6	
12	John 11:1-4	
13	John 17:6-10	
14	I Corinthians 10:31	
15	Hebrews 1:1-4	
16	Romans 3:21-25	
17	Romans 4:19-21	
18	Ps 29:1-4	
19	Hebrews 2:5-9	
20	Isaiah 4:2-6	
21	Luke 2:8-14	
22	Psalms 96	
23	Philippians 4:4-7	
24	Colossians 1:9-14	
25	Psalms 145:10-13	
26	Psalms 121:1-5	
27	Psalms 100	
28	Psalms 121	
29	Psalms 139	
30	Revelations 4:1-8	
31	Revelations 7:9-12	

## **MARCH WORSHIP TEAMS**

	Reader(s)	<i>Dianne Foreman</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Terry East</i>
<b>1st</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Judi Cole &amp; Terry East</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Bob &amp; Cheryl Gray</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Audrey Utley &amp; Stasha Raschtschenia</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Richard &amp; Whitney Utley</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Cheri Murrell &amp; Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Charlotte Utley &amp; Giuliana Salas</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ken Murrell</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion &amp; Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>David &amp; Kim Emerson</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Audrey Utley &amp; Jocelyn Sollenberger</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Ken &amp; Cheri Murrell</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Gary &amp; Carol Prior</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Charlotte Utley &amp; Stasha Raschtschenia</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Terry East &amp; Jennifer Killion</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Whitney Utley</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>David &amp; Kim Emerson</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Audrey Utley &amp; Jocelyn Sollenberger</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>

# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 -5:30 pm SLTA	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>4</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 6:00 pm Lent Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:45 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 -5:30 pm SLTA	<b>9</b> 5:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>10</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Lent Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:45 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 -5:30 pm SLTA	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>17</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>18</b> 10:00 WSL Bible Study 6:00 pm Lent Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:45 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>20</b> 4:00 am Mexican Medical Ministries	<b>21</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 -5:30 pm SLTA	<b>23</b> 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:00 pm Men's Group 7:00 pm AA	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Lent Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:45 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b> 4:00 am Mexican Medical Ministries	<b>28</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>29</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 -5:30 pm SLTA	<b>30</b> 5:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>31</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day				

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5150 WILSON ST.**

**LA MESA, CA 91942**

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NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EL CAJON, CA  
PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material  
March 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  
*solī deo gloria.*