



# The Parish Builder

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

May 2012  
Volume 12 Issue 5  
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](mailto:office-sllc@att.net)

Volunteer Office hours are:  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Table of Contents

Pastor Mark	page 1
Pastor Mark / Thank Yous	page 2
Thank Yous/Treasurer/Baptisms	page 3
Baptisms/Heifer Intl.	page 4
Parish Potpourri/WSL	page 5
Outreach/VBS	page 6
Birthdays/Worship Text	page 7
Memorials	
Prayer Calendar	page 8
Worship Teams	page 9
Church Event Calendar	page 10

## Announcement

### Congregational Forum

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Topic: Renovations

## Paved with Good Intentions

We sometimes use the phrase that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions” when we try, somewhat cynically, to find the good in someone’s actions which have somehow not met (our) expectations, or worse, which have actually caused more harm than good. This common phrase is more poignant theologically than would appear at first or even second glance.

Paradoxically, the phrase itself, “good intentions” seems to contradict the notion of “hell,” no matter how we might define both terms. Should not good intentions of themselves produce good? More forcefully, how can good intentions not effect good? Furthermore, if good intentions are reflections of the persons so acting, would it not be problematic to insinuate that such persons are wittingly or unwitting leading folks to hell? Good Heavens, what an idea!

So, how do sinners know what a good intention is, let alone decide what a whole host of good intentions are? What is our reference point? What criteria are fitting? If a traditional definition of sin is being turned in upon ourselves (*incurvatus in se*), then sinners by nature use themselves as their reference point for their good intentions. In that light, how can the “good intentions” of sinners lead anywhere else but away from God, i.e. to hell?

The only phrase in the Apostles’ Creed lacking explicit biblical support is the notion that Jesus “descended into hell.” Based on the prevailing judgment of the religious leaders of his day (and the crowds and the Roman authorities), Jesus was scourged and crucified out of the best of intentions. According to John’s gospel, Caiaphas explains “that it is better for you to have one man die for

*Continued from page 1*

the people than to have the whole nation destroyed" (John 11:50). When Jesus "descended into hell" he descended into the midst of our personal, social, religious, and political good intentions. *Incurvatus in se* is truly a very vicious circle.

If the road to hell is figuratively and literally paved with our good intentions, then how is the road to heaven constructed? How is it recognized, and how do we know when we are on it? The word for road or way in (biblical) Greek is *odos* (for example, an odometer measures how far we have travelled along the road or on our way). According to St. John, Jesus describes himself as "the way [*odos*] the truth and the life" (John 14:6), and St. Matthew writes, "For the gate is narrow and the road [*odos*] is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14).

Churches of all denominations view themselves as having a mission. That mission is reflected in the theology, leadership, and people of each denominational persuasion. Those churches most likely have more good intentions than they do people, and St. Luke's is no exception. This means also for us that exercising our individual and communal good intentions runs the risk at every turn (in upon ourselves) of undermining the mission inaugurated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a quandary we face!

Apart from his crucifixion, what have we sinful human beings contributed to Jesus Christ being and creating both the way of life and the way that leads to life? If we have not had and do not have anything constructive to contribute in God's soulful endeavour in Christ, then why do Christians continually use ourselves and our experiences as the points of reference for the churches' mission and actions?

St. Paul writes, "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on im-

mortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain: (I Corinthians 15:54-58).

By raising Jesus Christ from the dead, God has made us sinners the point of reference for his salvific work as a pure gift of grace. Not our sin, but instead our justification by faith alone is the way in which Christ leads and carries us through life and into eternal life. How can we at St. Luke's Lutheran Church best reflect and communicate this gift of God's justifying grace in all our words and works?

### **Thanks to St. Luke's Choir**

We wish to thank St. Luke's choir for its outstanding work for the Palm Sunday cantata and for singing at the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the two Easter Sunday services. This effort helped make this a very special Easter season. We are grateful to Sue Caldwell for leading the music programmes at St. Luke's. The choir is always looking to add voices to its ministry. Ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

### **Thanks to the Fellowship Committee**

We also thank the Fellowship Committee and others for their fine work preparing our Easter Brunch, held between the two Easter Sunday services. We are especially grateful to Jeff and Alben Rank for providing their many Bulgarian culinary contributions on hand to celebrate the baptism of their daughter, Aya Sofia. The Family Center was festively filled with much good food and many conversations.

## Thanks for the Many Helping Hands

Finally, but not least, we thank all those who helped behind the scenes putting up staging and taking down staging for the cantata, those cutting, collecting, and arranging palms for Palm Sunday, those decorating the sanctuary with banners, flowers, and lilies, those decorating the cross with a greenhouse of flowers for Easter Sunday, and ... All of these activities reflect the dedication that the people of this parish share as a witness to the faith that God has given to us in his son, Jesus Christ. Thank-you for proclaiming the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection in so many creative and effective ways.

### A Thank-you from Gene

A hearty thanks to all who have prayed for, visited with, and fed us throughout the past several months of my health journey. I'm gaining in strength and stamina daily, and give thanks to God and my St. Luke's family for all your support.

- *Gene Knippelmeyer*

### A Thank-you from Margaret

Maggie Simmons says "thank you" for all the Easter greetings she received from her St. Luke's family. She loves to hear from us! Thanks be to God

- *Shirley Carrington*

Thank you --- congregation and friends of St Luke's for your prayers. In July, 2010 I was diagnosed with a malignant growth in my chest (mediastinum) . Since then I have been on the prayers of the church and prayer chain. I have spent 14 nights (cumulative) in the hospital. 3 liters of fluid have been drained from my chest and I have received many I.V. chemo procedures. The last cat scan (early April) did not show any metastatic lesions. The growth (about 13 cm) is pressing on my wind pipe and esophagus> The oncologist is of the opinion that we should continue the weekly IV Chemo treatments at a heavier dose. Also she will double the oral medication. I will start breathing from a oxygen

machine to see if this helps my shortness of breath. I had to discontinue my last Hospice Care Giver assignment. I will try to be an effective member of the prayer chain and I will continue to try to visit a couple of shut in's on a weekly basis.

God Bless You. Love, Jim Thomas

## 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.

*Terry East*  
Treasurer

## St. Luke's is Awash with Baptisms

We celebrate with the following families the baptisms of their children in the month of April.

- 22 January - Roland James Gerbracht, son, and Clementine Grace Gerbracht, daughter, of Branden and Genevieve Gerbracht
- 4 March - Olivia AnnaLynn Loney, daughter of Aaron and Amanda Loney
- 08 April - Aya Sofia Rank, daughter of Jeff and Alben Rank
- 15 April - Meredith Avery, daughter of Jamie and Tahara
- 22 April - Gemma Eve Dragasits, daughter of Rob Dragasits and Laura Hackett
- 22 April - Makaina Kate Colbourn, daughter of Bob Colbourn and Karen Hackett-Colbourn

We welcome you into the priesthood of all believers and fellow members of the body of Christ at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

continued next page

January 22— Roland James Gerbracht  
and  
Clementine Grace Gerbracht



April 15, 2012—Meredith Avery



March 4, 2012—  
Olivia AnnaLynn Loney



April 22, 2012—Gemma Eve Dragasits



Easter Sunday—Aya Sofia Rank



### Heifer International

Many thanks to all who were so generous following the April “Passing on the Gift” event held Sunday, April 15. The congregation’s choice of countries to receive the St. Luke’s donations will be publicized next month. In the meantime, everyone will have a chance to vote for Guatemala, Uganda, or Peru to receive our gift.

Loo-Loo was a surprise, special guest as everyone was enjoying bagels, cream cheese and yogurt. You’ll be

seeing her from time to time. She's Lucy's sister! Other special "guests" were Sue and Roger Caldwell's three-week old chicks.

Around the world, "Passing on the Gift" is multiplying Heifer's impact dramatically. For example, in China a project begun in the 1980s with 105 rabbits has generated hundreds of thousands of offspring that have helped more than 2,200 families. Heifer has provided directly and through "Passing on the Gift" more than 3 million rabbits, goats, cows and other animals in China alone. In Zimbabwe, women in a Heifer International program passed on twice as many pigs as required because they became convinced that more women should enjoy the benefits of livestock ownership.

## Earth Day in Balboa Park

As this issue of *The Parish Builder* goes to press, Earth Day is about to be celebrated throughout the country, and especially in Balboa Park. Perhaps you had a chance to stop by Heifer International's booth and saw a familiar face or two. It's a marvelous opportunity for even more people to hear what Heifer stands for and what its goals are!

## Parish Potpourri

Terrific news!! Our own TORI HAUK has been accepted to the American Institute for Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, for the summer festival/program. This is actually a training program for opera singers, but an orchestra is needed to accompany. TORI will be playing under the baton of several European conductors. Congratulations, TORI. For more information, visit TORI's website <http://www.victoriahawk.com> SUE and ROGER CALDWELL have a dangerous barn owl in the neighborhood. Recently an owl killed the CALDWELL chickens and one of their turkeys. Replacement chicks were the ones you saw and heard recently at the Heifer International "Passing on the Gift" Sunday when SUE brought several Rhode Island Reds and Barred Rocks for us all to see. It's that time of the year again – graduation for relatives of St. Luke's members. Please let the office know if you have elementary, middle school, high school or college graduates. These names and relevant information will be publicized in the Builder in coming months.

## Women of St. Luke's

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will continually be in my mouth" Psalm 34:1

The women of the church have had a very busy month preparing for our major event of the year, "The Mother's and Other's Brunch."

The food committee led by Cathie Floegel has consulted with some of the best cooks in our parish and has come up with a wonderful menu to serve our guests.

MaryAnn Boullain designed the tickets, program, and the posters.

Tickets are on sale for \$10.00 each after the services every Sunday in the Lower Level. The deadline is Friday, May 11, 2012. So, don't wait until the last minute.

We are excited to have Regina (Gina) Hoffman as our guest speaker. Special music will be presented by a duo consisting of Marilyn Thomas on the violin and Willis Frisch on the cello. Marilyn is an accomplished violinist who along with Mr. Frisch were members of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra for years. Marilyn is married to Jim Thomas whom most of you know.

### Mother's and Other's Brunch

**Getting to Know You!**

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

**11:30 am**

**Family Center**

(Babysitting will be available.)

The Avondale Elementary School is still receiving donations of food and we have delivered another large supply, to the neediest of children at the school. We thank our generous donor for the money designated for Avondale School.

Our Project Day Chair, Shirley Carrington is preparing a special event in the near future, everyone is welcomed even the men, so be watching for the date and time.

For all the women of the church, you are invited to attend our two very interesting Bible Studies. Our two Circles meet every month. If you would like to study the Bible the Rebekah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month and the Deborah Circle meets on the Third Thursday at 10:00 am in our members homes. Call the office for more information. For our new ladies, this is a wonderful way to meet new friends.

## Outreach

### News from TACO

On the last Monday of every month, TACO celebrates our guests' birthdays. This tradition, started by former board member Dianna Little, came from the book *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. Each month, we have birthday cake and sing Happy Birthday to all our patio guests who have had a birthday that month. And everyone gets a piece of cake.

At TACO, we often speak of dignity. People who live on the street are often ignored and overlooked. We teach our volunteers how important it is to look people in the eye and offer them a smile while serving the meal. And once a month, we celebrate the fact that they were born.

Thank you to you all for your support throughout the years to continue this ministry to the homeless, working poor, and elderly of downtown San Diego. We are so blessed by you all.

Don't forget Empty Bowls this month! Saturday, May 12 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at La Jolla United Methodist Church. Pick a bowl, fill it up with soup, and take your bowl home to remind you of those who go with "empty bowls" every day. All proceeds go to TACO. More details can be found at the TACO website at [www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org).

*Rachel Line*  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Vacation Bible School is ... ... just around the corner

Ready for the adventure of a lifetime?

This year our VBS is called "Sky: Everything is Possible with God." At Sky, kids discover that *everything* is possible with God! Sky is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste!

Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Sky activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. So mark these dates on your calendar: July 30th-August 3rd. The fun starts at 5:30pm and will end at 8:30pm. Online registration has opened on the church website. So, look for more registration information to come!

If you'd like to help with Sky VBS this year, please contact Pastor Rob in the church office.



### PARISH BUILDER ARTICLES

June 2012 articles,  
due in the office by  
May 16th

*Thank You*



**HAPPY MAY  
BIRTHDAY  
to you....**

Shirley Carrington

Terry East

Randy Engel



**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 need of makeovers, facials or skin care solutions from Mary Kay...

PLEASE CALL and THANK  
Jesslyn Ponce-Dick  
Independent Senior Sales  
Director  
619-838-4533

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

**MAY WORSHIP TEXT**

**6th Fifth Sunday of Easter**

First Lesson—Acts 8: 26-40  
Second Lesson—I John 4: 7-21  
Gospel—John 15: 1-8

**13th Sixth Sunday of Easter**

First Lesson—Acts 10: 44-48  
Second Lesson—I John 5: 1-6  
Gospel—John 15: 9-17

**17th Ascension of Our Lord**

First Lesson—Acts 1: 1-11  
Second Lesson—Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Gospel—Luke 24: 44-53

**20th Seventh Sunday of Easter**

First Lesson—Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26  
Second lesson—I John 5: 9-13  
Gospel—John 17: 6-19

**27th Day of Pentecost**

First Lesson—Acts: 2: 1-21  
Second lesson—Romans 8: 22-27  
Gospel—John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

**Donna Bohnsack Memorial**

Glen Bohnsack

## MAY PRAYER CALENDAR

	Scripture	The Lord, Our Joy
1	Luke 2: 8-14	
2	Galatians 5: 22-23	
3	Nehemiah 8: 10	Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
4	Isaiah 35: 8-10	God of glory, Lord of love!
5	Psalms 16: 8-11	Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
6	Habakkuk 3: 17-19	Praising Thee, their sun above.
7	Psalms 43: 3-4	Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
8	Psalms 51: 8-12	Drive the gloom of doubt away.
9	Psalms 149 2-5	Giver of immortal gladness,
10	John 15: 8-11	Fill us with the light of day.
11	I Thessalonians 1: 4-8	
12	John 16: 20-22	
13	Luke 15: 3-7	
14	Psalms 98: 1-8	Thou art giving and forgiving,
15	II Corinthians 1: 20-24	Ever blessing, ever blest,
16	Philippians 1: 3-6	Wellspring of the joy of living,
17	Philippians 2: 1-2	Ocean depth of happy rest!
18	I Thessalonians 2: 17-20	Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
19	I Thessalonians 3: 9-10	All who live in love are thine;
20	Psalms 126: 5-6	Teach us how to love each other,
21	Isaiah 9: 2-4	Lift us to the joy divine!
22	Isaiah 12: 2-6	
23	Isaiah 29: 18-19	Hymn #551
24	Jeremiah 15: 16	Verses 1 and 3
25	II Corinthians 7: 2-4	LBW
26	James 1: 2-4	
27	I Peter 1: 3-9	
28	I Peter 4: 12-13	
29	Psalms 95: 1-3	
30	Hebrews 12: 1-2	
31	Isaiah 55: 10-13	

## MAY WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader Altar Guild Sound Technician	<i>TBA Bev Holland Ben Wilson</i>
<b>6th</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>TBA</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Liz Dunnigan</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Roger Caldwell</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Cathie Floegel, TBA</i>
	Greeters	<i>Bonnie Fuller, Loraine Winger</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles, Emily Rose Menacher</i>
<b>13th</b>	Communion Assistant—Bread	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Martha Applegate</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistants- Wine	<i>Shirley Carrington, TBA</i>
	Greeters	<i>Chuck Volker, Bob Des Lauriers</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Grace Menacher, Billy Miles</i>
<b>20th</b>	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Marge Hersom</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Emily Rose Menacher</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Marge Hersom, TBA</i>
	Greeters	<i>Bob &amp; Marilyn Burns</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Billy Miles, Grace Menacher</i>
<b>27th</b>	Communion Assistant— Bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Bonnie Fuller</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Bob &amp; Bonnie Fuller</i>
	Greeters	<i>Dawn &amp; Jim Dolan</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Chuck Hersom</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Grace Menacher, Billy Miles</i>

# MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai 'Chi' 12:00 pm WSL 6:30 p.m. Special Olympics	<b>2</b> 7:15p.m. Choir	<b>3</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Service	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
<b>6</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Counters 5:30 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Council	<b>8</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Ladies 7:00 am Rebekah Circle 6:30 p.m. Special Olympics	<b>9</b> 7:15p.m. Choir	<b>10</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
<b>13 Mothers Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 p.m. Sunday school	<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Counters	<b>15</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai 'Chi' 6:30 p.m. Special Olympics	<b>16</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir 5:00 pm Parish Builder Deadline	<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. Deborah Circle	<b>18</b> 1:00 p.m. Set up for WSL Luncheon	<b>19</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild 11:30 a.m. WSL Brunch
<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday school	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Counters	<b>22</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Ladies 6:30 p.m. Special Olympics	<b>23</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>24</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9-10 a.m. Altar Guild
<b>27</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday school	<b>28 Memorial Day—Office Closed</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 a.m. Tai Chi 9:00 a.m. Counters 9:30 am Project Ladies 6:30 p.m. Special Olympics	<b>30</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>31</b>		

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

Phone: 619-463-6633  
Webpage: [www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org)  
Email: [office-sllc@att.net](mailto:office-sllc@att.net)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Sunday school for all ages: Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in the Lower Level.
- Mother's and Other's Brunch: Saturday May 19 at 11:30 in the Lower Level.

**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.*