

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

August 2026
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 26 Issue 8

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

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August - A Divine Month?

The month August is named after Augustus Caesar (66 BC - 19 AD), the Roman Emperor. Known as Sextilis (sixth month) at the time, the name was changed to August because many of the events that brought Augustus to power occurred during that month.

In 46 BC, when Julius Caesar (100 - 44 BC) reformed the calendar of his day, the Roman world received a system of solar years and fairly evenly defined months. Unfortunately, because the Julian calendar was not quite accurate, Easter slowly shifted away from the March equinox. So, the Julian Calendar was replaced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII. Today, most of the world uses the Gregorian Calendar, but that is another story.

Before Julius originally reorganized the calendar, the insertion of various names of gods had shifted the months' numbering. Thus, the seventh month was still named Quintilis (fifth), and the eighth month was still called Sextilis (Sixth). The sequence thereafter followed suite, with the ninth month remaining September (seventh), the tenth being October (eighth), the eleventh being November (ninth), and the twelfth still December (tenth). We are grateful for such clarity in the calendar. No wonder it is



hard for the church council to find a date to meet.

Later, the Romans renamed the month Quintilis to July to honour the month in which Julius Caesar was born, and as indicated above, Sextilis was renamed for Augustus Caesar. Important for this discussion is the fact that not only were the caesars emperors, but they were also considered to be divine. So, being a Christian meant running into conflict not only with the religions of the empire but also with the religion of the emperor. To worship Christ as the only true God meant not worshipping the caesar. That could have fatal consequences.

Most “modern” people use the word August without endowing either the term or the month with any divine significance. It is just another month, perhaps only slightly more significant than other months because people tend to take some vacation then. Besides, ignoring history seems to be a much easier way of removing outmoded deities than destroying all remnants of them, such as the Taliban tried to do by destroying ancient Buddhist statues in 2001 in Afghanistan.

So, how do we juggle the First Commandment (You shall have no other gods) with human history and practical reality? How do we know when we are idolizing something, someone, some idea, some possession to the point of idolatry? In our human sin, do we not wittingly or

unwittingly invent all manner of false gods, sometimes with the best of intentions? If we do that on a small, individual scale, how do we do the same collectively? If we become aware of this, how would we collectively rectify the situation? As one small practical example, what would we call August if we were to change the name, and who would decide the matter? (Obviously, it is a matter for the nominating committee.)

Sinful humanity will by our sinful human nature invent a wonderfully diverse array of false gods. As part of that same humanity, we can do nothing to resolve the situation without destroying all of humanity and ourselves in the process. In contrast, however, in order to remove us from our sin and our false gods, the one true God allowed us to destroy his son. As the word augustus in Latin connotes, crucifying Jesus was considered by us sinners to be a “consecrated” and “venerable” action. As was claimed at the time, killing Jesus would purify and unite the people. That, fortunately, did not happen. Instead, God raised Jesus from the dead, and the people were both united in and divided by their sin against God. True justification by and unity with God comes only through faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ.

In his interpretation of the third article of the Creed, Luther writes, “I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with

his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.”

We can no more remove false gods from ourselves than we can remove them from the calendar. That is left to the one true God, and only that God can lead us from sin and destruction to life in the one truth faith in Jesus Christ. As a congregation, we are called to receive and to share this life-giving gospel as God’s power of salvation for all who believe. As we prepare during August for our Autumn activities, let us do so serving none other than Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

St. Luke’s Theological Academy

St. Luke’s Theological Academy (STLA) hopes to offer four courses this autumn. Pastor James Huenink is teaching American Lutheran History. Pastor Paul Willweber will teach a new course on the intertestamental times, i.e. the times between the Old and New Testament. Hopefully, Pastor Brian Hamer will teach another music-related course. Finally, Pastor Mark is teaching Reformation Theology. The courses will begin around the 13th of September. More information will be forthcoming when details of days, times, etc. are known.



VBS Success!

We wish to thank all those who helped plan, teach, cook, make crafts, play games, and so forth at VBS 2026. For many years now, VBS at St. Luke’s has been more like a congregational retreat than a thoroughgoing extravaganza. Depending on the time of publication and arrival of the August newsletter, as anticipated this year we either had or will have had a small but joyful gathering of people eager to spend time with God’s word and with one another. Although attracting larger groups of people would be nice, as Jesus reminds us, “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20 - ESV). With that criterion in mind, VBS was or will be a huge success!

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

A few days ago, I went to my mailbox. Amidst the bills, junk mail and advertisements I found a yellow envelope. It had my name and address handwritten on its front. It wasn't my birthday! It wasn't Christmas! Such curiosity arose in me. As I opened the envelope, my heart smiled with such joy seeing a card with a simple message of great encouragement. In addition to the affirming printed message there were twenty handwritten words added by the sender to bless my spirit! And ... oh... how they succeeded! I have looked at this card many times the last few days. It now sits displayed on my piano in my living room. I have probably reread the printed and handwritten words several dozen times. My spirit is blessed anew with each reading. What a powerful act of great kindness! What water to my soul!



I started thinking about the letters written in our Bibles to the Romans, the Corinthians, the Galatians, the Ephesians and others. I read the greetings in each of these letters.

Romans 1:7- 8 states: “To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be His holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.”

1 Corinthians 1: 4-6 says: “I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in Him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.”

Galatians 1:3-5 notes: “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 1:15-17 states: “For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.”

Philippians 1:3-6 says: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Oh ... how their hearts must have smiled and how their spirits surely were uplifted by these greetings! Such words of blessing.

In 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, Paul refers to the believers as “Living Epistles”. He wrote:

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”



Dear Friends, may we daily be LIVING EPISTLES. Pray with me that our lives would share God’s love and grace with all we encounter. And, perhaps, occasionally, we each could choose to reach out with a simple written card to tangibly remind one another and those in our church fellowship who are unable to attend currently that they’re thought of, prayed for, and truly blessed as members of God’s family. We are blessed to be a blessing. May we be living epistles.

In His service,

Laurie





August 2nd — Pending Host

August 9th — Pending Host

August 16th — Pending Host

August 23rd — Pending Host

August 30th — Pending Host

AUGUST WORSHIP TEXTS

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

— August 2, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 136:1-9

Second Lesson — Romans 9:1-13

Gospel — Matthew 14:13-21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

— August 9, 2026

First Lesson — Job 38:4-18

Psalm 18:1-6

Second Lesson — Romans 10:5-17

Gospel — Matthew 14:22-33

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

— August 16, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Second Lesson — Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15,
28-32

Gospel — Matthew 15:21-28

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— August 23, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Second Lesson — Romans 11:33-12:8

Gospel — Matthew 16:13-20

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

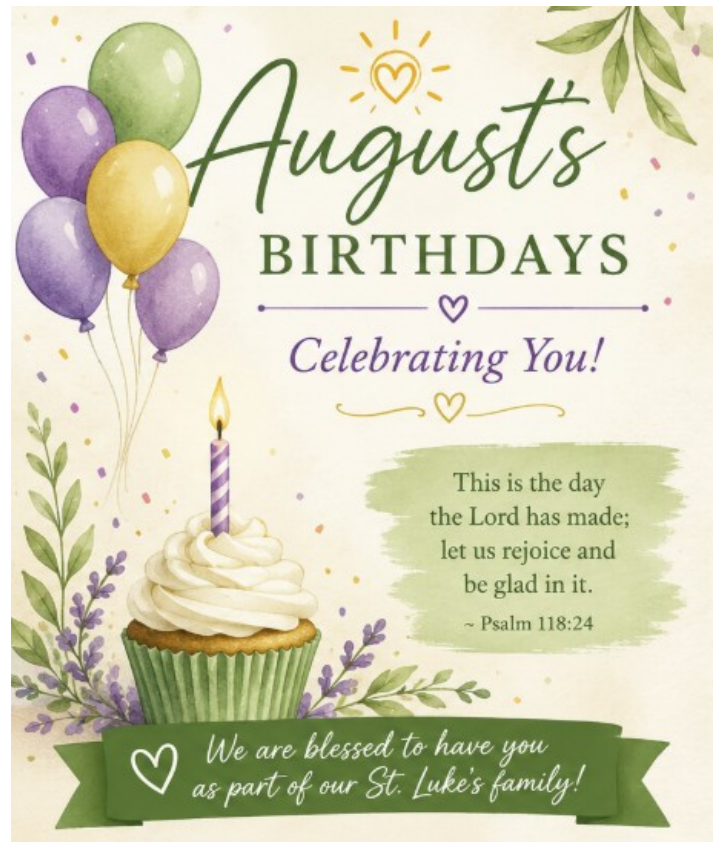
— August 30, 2026

First Lesson — Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26

Second Lesson — Romans 12:9-21

Gospel — Matthew 16:21-28



Jody Iverson	8/1
Karen Parcells	8/4
Tavis Brown	8/5
Judy Horning	8/10
Kathy Coleman	8/13
Nancy Kearns	8/18
Tom Stubbs	8/27
Dana Towers	8/28
Marie Handley	8/29

Happy Anniversary

Gary & Kathy Coleman 8/31

AUGUST PRAYER CALENDAR

“Abide o Dearest Jesus”

1	Acts 20:29-32	<i>Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.</i>
2	Roman 5:14-17	
3	Ephesians 2:4-8	
4	2 Timothy 1:7-10	
5	Colossians 1:1-6	<i>Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word, And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.</i>
6	Matthew 11:1-7	
7	Psalms 11:11-16	
8	Proverbs 2:1-8	
9	Romans 5:1-2	<i>Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light; Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.</i>
10	Philippians 1:4-7	
11	Ps 27:1-3	
12	John 1:1-5	
13	I Peter 2:9-10	<i>Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord; Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.</i>
14	Ephesians 5:7-14	
15	Revelations 21:22-26	
16	Ps 32:1-2	
17	Matthew 5:3-12	<i>Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength, Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.</i>
18	Ps 119:9-16	
19	John 17:13-19	
20	Ps 25:4-7	
21	Ps 121:1-8	<i>Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love; Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.</i>
22	Ps 91:1-4	
23	Ps 93:1-5	
24	2 Peter 1:3-4	
25	Ps 23:1-6	<i>Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love; Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.</i>
26	Eph 2:4-10	
27	Eph 2:11-22	
28	Hebrews 4:14-16	
29	Jude 1-23	<i>Hymn #919 Lutheran Service Book</i>
30	Colossians 3:16	
31	Jude 1:24-25	

AUGUST WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Terry East</i>
2nd	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Jennifer Killion</i>
	Greeter	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
9th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jennifer Killion & Terry East</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Jillian Barnard & Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
16th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ken Murrell</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Richard & Whitney Utley</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Prior</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
23rd	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Terry East</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jennifer Killion & Randy Engel</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Whitney Utley</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Prior</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
30th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Richard & Whitney Utley</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 am JOY
2 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	3 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	4 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	5 10:00 am WSL Bible Study	6 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	7	8 8:00 am JOY 10:00 am WSL Story Telling
9 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	10 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	11 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Council mtg	12	13 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	14	15 8:00 am JOY 7:00 am Finding Solutions for Sr.
16 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	17 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	18 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	19 10:00 am WSL Bible Study	20 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	21	22 8:00 am JOY 10:00 am WSL Story Telling
23 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	24 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	25 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	26 7:00 pm Service	27 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	28	29 8:00 am JOY
30 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	31 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA					

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LA MESA, CA 91942

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Dated Material
August 2026

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.