

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 9

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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How About Them Apples?

That should get us to the core of the matter! So, what is the matter? That is a good question. We often ask or are asked, "What is the matter?" The question arises when someone else or we sense or have become aware that something is wrong. So, what is the matter or concern which is troubling? Often we hope, or it is hoped, that the question will bring us to the core of the problem, perceived or believed to be perceived.

As we go through life, we encounter problems of all sorts and descriptions from the large to the small. We have our problems, and others have their problems. Not infrequently, problems are not only confounding but compounding. One problem often leads to another, and often it seems that problems play off one another which at times can become frustrating if not overwhelming. Sometimes the loss of something simple affects many other parts of our lives. For example, if we were to lose our driving license due to having to forfeit it or simply misplacing it, how quickly our lives would change by not being able to drive.

All the misfortunes and mishaps in human life have their root in one way or another in Adam and Eve having stopped listening and trusting God when they became more

interested in listening and trusting the serpent in the garden of Eden. It seems nigh on impossible that such a small thing would not only affect Adam and Eve but their progeny and consequently all humanity. Within a very short span of time, Cain killed Abel, and the story of human history is encumbered with the results of sin and death. The tragedy of human sin extends, however, well beyond humanity. As St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now” (Romans 8:22 - ESV).

In other words, Adam and Eve’s breaking their relationship with God has had universal consequences. That seems terribly disproportionate to the crime, so to speak. That, however, goes to the core of the matter. One is often told that Adam and Eve simply broke God’s commandment by eating an apple. Only, we do not know what the fruit was from our perspective. Scripture tells us that they ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Who really knows how the apple got introduced into the story? Perhaps it is derived from something like, “An apple a day keeps God away,” to doctor the familiar phrase.

The breaking of the commandment, as it were, is not the primary issue. It is symptomatic but does not go to the core of the matter. The real problem is not trusting God. When we do not trust God, which is the nature of human sin, it affects everything. Adam and Eve’s lack of faith affects all creation because all creation was made and given to them as a

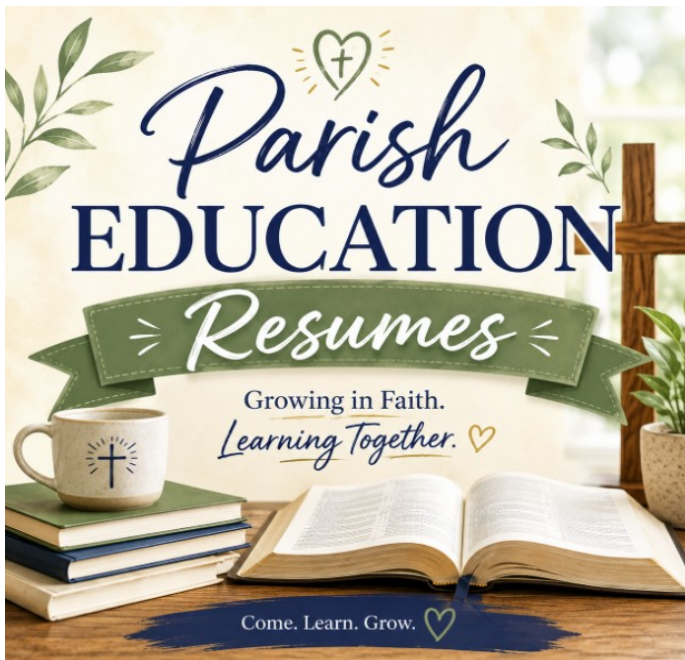
gift. So, when God’s primary relationship with creation went awry, that is God’s relationship with Adam and Eve as his prize creatures of creation, nothing could be left unscathed.

So, when God sent his Son as the word of God incarnate to sinful humanity, he did not send a new and better law giver, a new Moses on steroids. Instead, he sent his promise. God’s word is by nature promise. It does what it says. So, when Jesus came and commanded people to be healed, they were healed. This is not some type of magic. It is the nature of God’s word. When Jesus declared that the unloved were lovable, it was so because God in Jesus said it. When God gives us his promise, it by its very nature creates.

So, when God gives us his promise in Jesus, the greatest miracle is that it creates faith, trust in the promise. The promise is thus self-fulfilling, and that faith created in us mends our broken relationship with God which Adam and Eve cast aside. That is the core of the matter, and that faith makes us right or just before God. For this reason, Lutherans say that the doctrine of justification by faith alone is the article or doctrine by which the church stands or falls.

In baptism, God bestows his promise given in Jesus’s crucifixion and resurrection to each and every one of us. In baptism, the old, unbelieving Adam in each of us is put to death, and the new creation in Christ is raised to newness of life. That is God’s promise. St. Luke’s Theological Academy (SLTA) and all of

our parish education at St. Luke's serve the singular purpose of enriching our understanding of this promise not only for our own lives but for our mission as a church. As our regular parish educational opportunities resume in September, please be encouraged to avail yourself of the opportunity to take a refresher course, so to speak, not only to gain greater depth as to "what's the matter" but to understand and then to communicate why God's promises really matter to all sinners like us.



Parish Education Resumes

Parish educational opportunities at St. Luke's resume on Sunday, 13 September! This includes Sunday school for children and adults, theological academy courses, and catechism/confirmation. Further details on conformation instruction are forthcoming.

St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA) Courses

American Lutheran History

Pastor James Huenink

Starts Sunday, 13 September, 3:00-4:30 pm

\$25.00 Registration Fee

Reformation Theology

Pastor Mark Menacher, PhD

Starts Sunday, 13 September, 4:00-5:30 pm

\$25.00 Registration Fee

The Time Between the Testaments

Pastor Paul Willweber

Starts Sunday, 13 September, 3:00-4:30 pm

\$25.00 Registration Fee

(This course might also be offered via Teams)

Worship: What, How, and Why

Pastor Brian Hamer

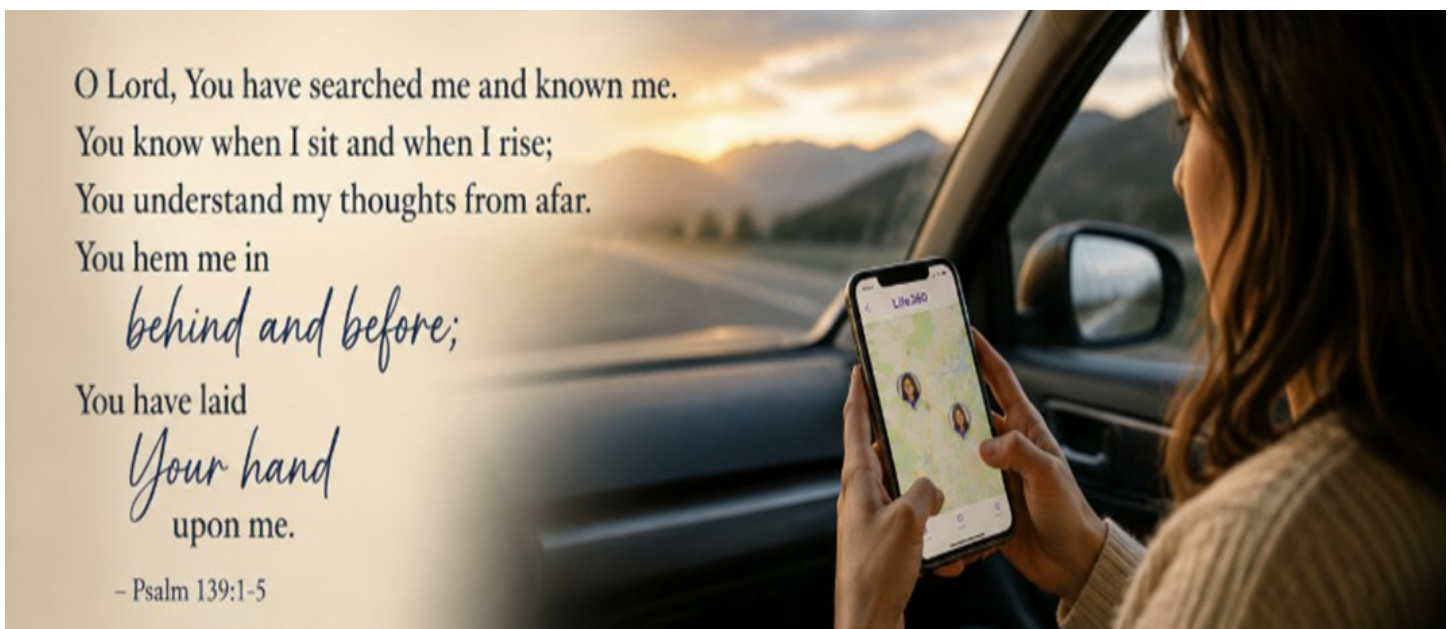
Starts Sunday, 13 September, 3:00-4:30 pm

\$25.00 Registration Fee

(This course is offered in-person and via Zoom)

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Recently I was driving back from Glendale with my sister after visiting our older brother along with his son and his lady and my younger brother. What a sweet time we shared encouraging and uplifting one another. As we drove home, reviewing the joys of our recent gathering and discussing the happenings of my sister's four children (my other precious nephews), she realized that her second son should be getting off work. She pulled out her phone, tapped the Life 360 app, and said, "Oh! He's already home!" She, then, checked on her son who just flew back to college in Colorado. "He's at his apartment!" WOW! Such amazing technology can locate loved ones, with their permission, in the moment and reassure a loving mother's heart.



It got me thinking about Psalm 139:1-7 that says, "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You understand my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down; You are aware of all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, O Lord. You hem me in behind and before; You have laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?"

Our God is an amazing Father. He is always watching and thinking about you and me. Psalm 139:16-18 states, "Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God, how vast is their sum! If I were to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; and when I awake, I am still with you!"

I find such comfort in God's omniscient, ever present and available love and care for each of us. I realize, however, that sometimes I go about my life unaware of His moment by moment loving presence and not asking for His help and guidance. Does that happen in your life, too? Let's purpose to be more aware of His blessings and praise and thank Him in the moments of our lives. Let's grow in sharing our needs with Him and one another and pray for each other more consistently.



Oh the blessings He longs to pour out among us as we turn to Him with our needs. As Psalm 139:9-10 states, "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle by the farthest sea – even there Your hand will guide me; Your right hand will hold me fast." Such comfort! Such rich blessing! We need Him all the time.

Isaiah 30:18 states, "Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him."

In His service,

Laurie





Thank You!

Christmas in July

Thank you to everyone who came, crafted, and donated for Christmas in July.

Your generosity, fellowship, and support made it such a blessing!

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • GENEROSITY
Growing Together in Christ



September Coffee Hour Volunteers

Please sign up to help serve!

- ☕ September 6th — Pending Host
- ☕ September 13th — Pending Host
- ☕ September 20th — Pending Host
- ☕ September 27th — Pending Host

Thank you for helping make fellowship special!

Together in Faith, Together in Community.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TEXTS

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— September 6, 2026

First Lesson — Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 32:1-7

Second Lesson — Romans 13:1-10

Gospel — Matthew 18:1-20

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— September 13, 2026

First Lesson — Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:1-12

Second Lesson — Romans 14:1-12

Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

— September 20, 2026

First Lesson — Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm 27:1-9

Second Lesson — Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Gospel — Matthew 20:1-16

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— September 27, 2026

First Lesson — Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-10

Second Lesson — Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

Gospel — Matthew 21:23-32



Betty Murray	9/2
Catherine Floegel	9/4
Paige Yerger	9/4
Peter Mylerberg	9/5
Patti Boekamp	9/6
Karen Skullerud	9/6
Ted Olsen	9/8
Terri Proctor	9/12
Tania Salas	9/13
Nicole Tabor	9/13
Charles Crossley	9/20
Shirley Crossley	9/24
Bob Gray	9/24
John Busker	9/25

Happy Anniversary

Dawn & Jim Dolan	9/24
Sarah & Gary Scott	9/28

SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

“How Sweet The Name of Jesus”

1	Psalm 107:1-9	<i>How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.</i> <i>It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest; 'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.</i> <i>Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place; My never-failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.</i> <i>O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.</i> <i>How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought! But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.</i> <i>Lutheran Service Book Hymn #524</i>
2	John 1:14-18	
3	Luke 4:18-19	
4	John 10:11-14	
5	Ephesians 1:3-14	
6	Isaiah 41:10-13	
7	Ephesians 2:4-7	
8	Ephesians 3:14-19	
9	Philippians 1:3-11	
10	Colossians 3:16-17	
11	Acts 4:8-12	
12	Philippians 4:4-7	
13	Psalm 28:6-9	
14	Psalm 119:114-117	
15	Psalm 23	
16	Hebrews 13:20,21	
17	Hebrews 4:14-16	
18	Hebrews 9:11	
19	Hebrews 10:19-23	
20	John 1:1-5	
21	II Peter 1:3-4	
22	Hebrews 12:11-14	
23	Psalm 8:1-9	
24	Psalm 5:7-8	
25	Psalm 18:1-3	
26	Psalm 33:1-22	
27	Psalm 37:3-9	
28	Psalm 40:16-17	
29	Matthew 11:25-30	
30	I Peter 1:3-9	

WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Kim Emerson</i>
6th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Terry East</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
13th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Judi Dunnigan & Jennifer Killion</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Laurie Floren & Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
20th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ken Murrell</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Laurie Floren & Terry East</i>
	Greeter	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>David & Kim Emerson</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
27th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Judi Dunnigan</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jennifer Killion & Randy Engel</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Prior</i>
	Acolytes	
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>

September 2026

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

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dated Material
September 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.