

# Parish Rebuilder

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 5150 WILSON ST. LA MESA, CA 91942  
619-463-6633 [www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org)

December 2019  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 19 Issue 12

## A Sermon for Christmas by Martin Luther

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

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

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### *Advent Dinner*

December 8th at 5:00pm

### **Einstein School Kinderchor**

December 15th at 3:00pm

### *German Carol Service*

December 22nd at 7:00pm

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

December 24th at 7:00pm

(new time)

You have heard today the story from the Gospel of St. Luke [Lk 2:1-14] of how it came to pass that our Lord Christ was born and then also the message of the angel, who announced who the boy was who was born. Now we shall go on and take up the message of the angel. So for today you have heard only that the child was born and that he is the Lord and Savior. Thus we spoke of the story, how it unfolded, and who the persons in it were. This article is so high that even today it is believed by only a few... Nobody believes it except he who also knows this faith, namely, that this child is the Lord and Savior.

But for whom was he born and whose Lord and Savior is he? The angels declare that he was born Lord and Savior... Who, then, are those to whom this joyful news is to be proclaimed? Those who are faint-hearted and feel the burden of their sins, like the shepherds, to whom the angels proclaim the message, letting the great lords in Jerusalem, who do not accept it, go on sleeping...

This is our theology, which we preach in order that we may understand what the angel wants... And the angel desired that we should see nothing but the child which is born, just as the angels themselves, as though they were blind, saw nothing but the child born of the virgin, and desired that all created things should be as nothing compared with this child, that we should see nothing, be it harps, gold, goods, honor, power, and the like, which we would prefer before their message. For if I receive even the costliest and best in the world, it still does not have the name of Savior.

In my sin, my death, I must take leave of all created

things. No, sun, moon, stars, all creatures, physicians, emperors, kings, wise men and potentates cannot help me. When I die I shall see nothing but black darkness, and yet that light, “To you is born this day the Savior” [Luke 2:11], remains in my eyes and fills all heaven and earth. The Savior will help me when all have forsaken me. And when the heavens and the stars and all creatures stare at me with horrible mien, I see nothing in heaven and earth but this child...

Therefore this is the chief article, which separates us from all the heathen, that you, O man, may not only learn that Christ, born of the virgin, is the Lord and Savior, but also accept the fact that he is your Lord and Savior, that you may be able to boast in your heart: I hear the Word that sounds from heaven and says: This child who is born of the virgin is not only his mother’s son. I have more than the mother’s estate; he is more mine than Mary’s, for he was born for me, for the angel said, “To you” is born the Savior. Then ought you to say, Amen, I thank thee, dear Lord...

Take yourself in hand, examine yourself and see whether you are a Christian! If you can sing: The Son, who is proclaimed to be a Lord and Savior, is my Savior; and if you can confirm the message of the angel and say yes to it and believe it in your heart, then your heart will be filled with assurance and joy and confidence, and you will not worry much about even the costliest and best that this world has to offer...

For, if it is true that the child was born of the virgin and is mine, then I have no angry God and I must know and feel that there is nothing but laughter and joy in the heart of the Father and no sadness in my heart. For, if what the angel says is true, that he is our Lord and Savior, what can sin do against us? “If God is for us, who is against us?” [Rom. 8:31]. Greater words than these I cannot speak, nor all the angels and even the Holy Spirit, as is sufficiently testified by the beautiful and devout songs that have been made about it.

You can see what our papists and Junkers, who

have chosen innumerable saviors, have felt about this faith. Indeed, the papists still want to retain the mass, the invocation of saints, and their invented works by which we are to be saved. This is as much as to say, I do not believe in the Savior and Lord whom Mary bore; and yet they sing the words of the angel, hold their triple masses [at Christmas] and play their organs. They speak the words with their tongues but their heart has another savior. And the same is true in the monasteries: if you want to be saved, remember to keep the rule and regulations of Francis and you will have a gracious God! ...

But then what is left of the honor of the child who was born this day, whom the angel calls Lord and Savior, and who wants to keep his name, which is Savior and Christ the Lord. If I set up any savior except this child, no matter who or what it is or is called, then he is not the Savior. But the text says that he is the Savior. And if this is true—and it is the truth—then let everything else go...

What we have said, then, [is] that he who lies in the virgin’s lap is our Savior, that you accept this and give thanks to God, who so loved you that he gave you a Savior who is yours. And for a sign he sent the angel from heaven to proclaim him, in order that nothing else should be preached except that this child is the Savior and far better than heaven and earth. Him, therefore, we should acknowledge and accept; confess him as our Savior in every need, call upon him, and never doubt that he will save us from all misfortune. Amen (excerpts from LW 51:211-216).



## Christmas Tree Party

Mark your calendars! This year's Christmas Tree Decorating Party is scheduled for Friday, 06 December beginning at 6:00 pm. As usual, there will be a tree in need of decorating. Chrismons will be read to adorn the tree. Participants without wings will be supplied ladders to decorate the upper reaches of the tree. Pizza and other refreshments will be on hand to feed the busy workers. We look forward to this fun, congregational event. Please RSVP with the church office.

## Einstein School Kinderchor

The children's choir (Kinderchor) from the Albert Einstein school will be performing their German Christmas programme this year at St. Luke's. The programme is scheduled for Sunday, 15 December at 3:00 pm. The choir will sing several songs and also will perform a nativity skit. There are parts for audience participation. Afterwards, they will hold a little reception in the Lower Level.

## German Carol Service

St. Luke's in conjunction with the German Department at Poway High School will again hold a German Christmas Carol service (*Weihnachtsgottesdienst*). The service is scheduled for Sunday, 22 December 2019, at 7:00 pm. As usual, we have refreshments in the Lower Level after the service.

## Christmas Eve at St. Luke's

St. Luke's will hold one Christmas Eve service this year at 7:00 pm. The service will be held on Tuesday, 24 December, which, of course, is Christmas Eve. This candlelight service will feature the choir and guest instrumentalists, including Tori Hauk. The pastor promises to behave himself this year, and you can probably guess how well that will go. Nonetheless, plan to bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ with your St. Luke's family.

*Pastor Mark*



## Coffee Hour hosts for December

December 1—Sara Roybal

December 8—Joe Makowski & MaryAnn Boullain

December 15—Jeff & Albena Rank

December 22—Estella Schweikert

## Women of St. Luke's

Well here we are right in the middle of the holiday season. Did you enjoy the Advent Dinner? MaryAnn Boullain did a great job organizing the event, cooking the turkey and ham and making sure all got done. Thanks to all who decorated, set up, cleaned up and entertained. Unfortunately, MaryAnn who has been our event organizer expects to be taking a lesser role in the future. However, we are confident that one or more of you will make it possible to carry on these events.

We are in a season of joy. Reds and Greens and Golds and Silvers exclaim our excitement. Not for Santa or gifts or parties, but the celebration of the greatest gift ever given: the coming of God's Son to walk among us.

WSL will be experiencing a major organizational change next year. We will have more details next month, but one of the major changes is that WSL will mean Women of St. Luke's, all of you.

Wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a happy healthy New Year.

*Nancy Kearns*  
WSL president



Select an ornament from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex.

Bring the wrapped and labeled gift to the Advent Dinner on December 8th or by December 9<sup>th</sup> in the office.

We are collecting non-perishable food items too.

See Mary Ann Boullain for more information.



### Christmas Tree Decorating Party

Come help decorate the Christmas tree

Friday December 6th  
from 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Dinner provided

please RSVP to the office by Thursday December 5th.

## St. Luke's Stewards

*This is part of an ongoing look at some of this congregation's STEWARDS, now focusing for several months on our Ushers. You will read a little of where they came from and how they happen to be at St. Luke's.*

Jillian Barnard, St. Luke's newest addition to our dedicate ushers, has been a member since October 2017. You can spot Jillian as the lady in the hat each Sunday!. Though born in San Diego, her father was in the Navy, she actually grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and graduated from high school there. Anyone acquainted with that part of the Midwest knows Ft. Wayne has many Lutheran Churches. Jillian's childhood home was busy, she had three brothers and two sisters; she being the second oldest in that line of siblings.

Jillian met her husband, Robert, in 1987 in Newport Beach where she was as an office manager for two surgeons. At that time, Robert worked for Rockwell International. Jillian and Robert were married in 1989 at the Lutheran Church in Fletcher Hills.

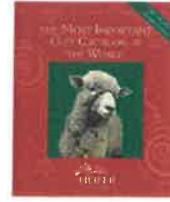
Jillian and Bob bought their current company, Kitt Sign Company when their daughter Brittany was nine months old. Bob has always been artistic and Jillian has been the organizer, so this business suits them perfectly. They are busy 6 days a week with lots of repeat business and word of mouth advertising.

Since joining St. Luke's, Jillian has participated in several Bible Studies groups, involved with the Flag Day Parade and a Sunday morning greeter and usher.

*Martha Applegate*



## HEIFER International



Many members of St. Luke's in past years have given HEIFER Christmas gifts to friends and family. Now is your chance to give again. HEIFER's mission is to end hunger and care for the earth!! This non-profit organization has won so many awards!! and continues to be an inspiration.

Martha Applegate, a HEIFER volunteer for many years, will help you make your choice of gifts that are totally appropriate for friends and family. She will be in the lower level after worship service on Sunday, December 1. HEIFER shopping is a terrific way to begin the Advent Season.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH HEIFERS!**

\$500 or \$10 per share

**GOATS ARE A GLORIOUS GIFT!**

\$ 120 or \$10 per share

**CHRISTMAS CHEER OF CHICKS**

\$20 per flock

**LOVE LLAMAS AND ALPACAS**

\$150 or \$20 per share

**SWEETEN CHRISTMAS WITH BEES**

\$30 per hive

**WARM UP WITH A WATER BUFFALO**

\$250 or \$25 per share

**THREE SCHOOLS OF FISH**

\$300 or \$30 per share

**BIOGAS STOVES FOR A VILLAGE:**

\$1000 or \$50 per stove

**SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL**

\$275

**SHARE OF A MILK MENAGERIE**

\$1000 or \$100 per share

# WSL ADVENT POTLUCK DINNER

Please join the WSL for an advent dinner with guest speaker **Dr. Gail Nelson Bones**

December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Lower Level. Sign up during coffee hour with MaryAnn Boullain



*Dr. Gail Nelson Bones is an author, speaker, singer-songwriter, worship leader and founder of CrossWise Living, a ministry devoted to helping people at all stages in life navigate change through cross-generational relationships.*



This is an incredible way to gift someone with something that CAN and WILL change lives!!

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** "honor cards" will be available for those who wish to honor a loved one by giving an animal or share of an animal in their name.

**December 1st, Martha Applegate will be available in the Lower Level with more information**

## Happy Birthday

Debbie Parks  
Raymond Yerger  
Liz Dunnigan  
Joe Makowski  
Ellis Petersen  
Mario Salas

## Happy Anniversary

Robin & Roy Wheeler  
Jillian & Bob Barnard



*towards the Holiday Giving  
Thanksgiving "baskets"  
This season we were able to provide  
gift cards for 8 families.*

### December 1 — *First Sunday of Advent*

First Lesson — Isaiah 2: 1-5  
Psalm 122  
Second Lesson — Romans 13: 8-14  
Gospel Lesson — Matthew 21: 1-11

### December 8 — *Second Sunday of Advent*

First Lesson — Isaiah 11: 1-10  
Psalm 72: 1-7  
Second Lesson — Romans 15: 4-13  
Gospel Lesson — Matthew 3: 1-12

### December 15—*Third Sunday in Advent*

First Lesson — Isaiah 35: 1-10  
Psalm 146  
Second Lesson — James 5: 7-11  
Gospel Lesson — Matthew 11: 2-15

### December 22 — *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

First Lesson — Isaiah 7: 10-17  
Psalm 24  
Second Lesson — Romans 1: 1-7  
Gospel Lesson — Matthew 1: 18-25

### December 24 — *The Nativity of Our Lord*

First Lesson — Isaiah 7: 10-14  
Psalm 110: 1-4  
Second Lesson — 1 John 4: 7-16  
Gospel Lesson — Matthew 1: 18-25

First Lesson — Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 2

Second Lesson — Hebrews 1: 1-12

Gospel — John 1: 1-18

### December 30—*First Sunday after Christmas*

First Lesson — Isaiah 63: 7-14

Psalm 111

Second Lesson — Galatians 4: 4-7

Gospel — Matthew 2: 13-23

## DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

### Christ Our Hope

1	Isaiah 40: 28-31
2	Romans 4: 16-22
3	Psalms 62: 5-8
4	Romans 5: 1-5
5	1 Peter 1: 3-9
6	1 Peter 1: 13-16
7	1 Peter 1: 18-21
8	1 Peter 3: 3-6
9	1 Peter 3: 13-15
10	Romans 12: 9-13
11	Romans 12: 9-13
12	Romans 15: 4-6
13	Romans 15: 10-13
14	Psalms 25: 1-3
15	Psalms 25: 4-7
16	11 Thessalonians 2: 13-17
17	Romans 8: 18-25
18	Ephesians 1: 15-21
19	Psalms 43: 1-5
20	Colossians 1: 3-8
21	Galatians 5: 1-6
22	Hebrews 3: 1-6
23	Hebrews 6: 7-12
24	Hebrews 6: 16-20
25	Hebrews 7: 18-25
26	Hebrews 10: 19-23
27	Hebrews 11: 1-6
28	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
29	1 Thessalonians 5: 8-11
30	Titus 2: 11-14
31	Revelation 1: 4-8

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne!

Lutheran Service Book

Hymn #575



## DECEMBER WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader Altar Guild Sound Technician	<i>Randy Engel Estella Schweikert Matt Kirk</i>
<b>1st</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Liz Dunnigan &amp; Thelma Pace</i>
	Greeters	<i>Ellis Petersen &amp; Loraine Wininger</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stefan Raschtschenia, Gabby &amp; Jet Bruflat</i>
<b>8th</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Tania Salas</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Stephanie Brown &amp; Thelma Pace</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Tavis Brown &amp; Paige Yerger</i>
<b>15th</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Tania Salas</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Laurie Floren &amp; Thelma Pace</i>
	Greeters	<i>Marilyn Burns &amp; Marie Handley</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Gabby &amp; Jet Bruflat</i>
<b>22nd</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Martha Applegate</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Stephanie Brown &amp; Liz Dunnigan</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Tavis Brown &amp; Stefan Raschtschenia,</i>
	<b><i>Christmas Eve Candlelight service</i></b>	<b><i>7:00pm</i></b>
<b>24th</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>MaryAnn Boullain</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Liz Dunnigan &amp; Laurie Floren</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stefan Raschtschenia</i>
<b>29th</b>	Communion Assistant — Bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Thelma Pace</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Terry East</i>
	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Thelma Pace &amp; Liz Dunnigan</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stefan Raschtschenia</i>

# DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 8:00 am Tai Chi	4	5 10:00am WSL meeting	6 6:00pm Christmas Tree Decorating	7 9-10 am Altar Guild
8 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 5:00pm Advent Dinner	9 9:00 am Counters	10 8:00 am Tai Chi	11	12 8:00 am Tai Chi 11:00 am Staff 7:00 pm Choir	13 6:00 pm Christmas tree decorating party	14 9-10 am Altar Guild
15 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00pmEinstein School Kinderchor	16 9:00 am Counters	17 8:00 am Tai Chi	18	19 8:00 am Tai Chi 11:00 am Staff 7:00 pm Choir	20	21 9-10 am Altar Guild
22 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 7:00 pm German Service	23 9:00 am Counters	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 Office/campus closed	26 Office/campus closed	27	28 9-10 am Altar Guild
29 9:00 am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	30 9:00 am Counters	31				

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**LA MESA, CA 91942**

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NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material  
December 2019

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

- Worship Service: Sundays at 9:00 am.
- During service childcare is available for ages 5 and under in Lower Level.
- Sunday School for all ages after worship service in Lower Level classrooms.
- Christmas Tree decorating — December 6th at 6pm — dinner provided.
- WSL Advent Dinner — December 8th at 5:00 pm.
- Einstein School Kinderchor December 15th at 3:00pm
- German Carol Service — December 22nd at 7:00 pm.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services — December 24th at 7:00pm—NEW TIME.
- Office Closed — December 25 & 26 — Merry Christmas.

**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.*

