

# 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)

April 2025  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 25 Issue 4

**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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## ***Doubts about the Resurrection?***

In relation to I Corinthians 15:3-7, Luther writes, *15:3-7. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

“With these words St. Paul explains and repeats the essence of His Gospel, which he preached to them, the Gospel in which they stand and by which they must be saved. Thus he composes a whole sermon on the resurrection of Christ, which might well be read and discussed on the Day of Easter. For from this flow the basis and the reason of this article on the resurrection of the dead which he is elaborating. And his sermon substantiates this doctrine most forcefully, both by proof from Scripture and by the witness of many living people, etc. He wishes to say: “I gave you nothing but what I myself received, nor do I know anything else to proclaim as the basis of our salvation than the Lord Jesus Christ, as He most certainly both truly died and also rose again from the dead. That is the content and the sum and substance of my Gospel, on which you and I were baptized and in which we stand. Thus I did not steal anything, nor did I spin a yarn, nor did I dream this up; no, I received it from Christ Himself.” With this he pricks those false teachers. It is as though he were to say: “If they proclaim something different, they cannot have received it from Christ. It must represent their own dreams and phantasy. For they obviously did not receive it from us nor from other apostles (since we all agree and are in accord with

our message), much less from Christ. Therefore it must be sheer seduction and deception. Thus Paul also boasts in Gal. 1:11, 12, 174 over against the false apostles that he did not receive this doctrine from man nor from the apostles themselves, and that his proclamation was not derived from human reason or wisdom, that no man had invented it or contrived it of himself, but that it was a message which he had to receive through divine revelation. That was something those people could not boast of or maintain. Indeed, his own reason had contributed absolutely nothing to this, nor had he striven to obtain it. In fact, he had once persecuted it and raged against it like a raving, silly dog. God's Word is so far beyond all reason, also beyond the apostles' own knowledge or wisdom, that no one can attain it by his own power or understanding, to say nothing of contriving or devising anything better, as those people among the Corinthians alleged to be able to do.

“Paul adduces two kinds of proof (in refutation of their false teaching) in support of his message, or Gospel, which he has preached concerning Christ's resurrection. First, he points out that he took this from Scripture and that he proves this with Scripture. In the second place, he cites his own experience and that of many others who saw the resurrected Christ. For it is the mark of a fair man to prove and attest what he proclaims and says, not only with words but also with deed and example both of himself and others. And thus Paul enumerates the eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection; first, Cephas, or Peter, then the Twelve, to whom Christ showed Himself alive, so that they heard and saw Him and associated with Him in His external, physical essence. Later He was seen by more than five hundred brethren who were assembled together, then separately by James, and finally by all the apostles. Here Paul calls all those apostles (different from the Twelve) who were sent out by Christ to preach. For He selected the Twelve especially (as something more than plain apostles, or messengers) to be His witnesses not only of the resurrection but also of His entire

life, of His words and deeds heard and seen by them, so that they might disseminate the Gospel after Christ. “All of these are, in addition to me, reliable witnesses of what we saw and experienced, carried out as foretold in Scripture.”

“And note how Paul again extols and exalts the testimony of Scripture and the external Word as he emphasizes and repeats the phrase “in accordance with the Scripture.” To be sure, he does not do this without reason. He does this in the first place to resist the mad spirits who disdain Scripture and the external message and in place of this seek other secret revelation. And today every place is also teeming with such spirits, confused by the devil, who regard Scripture a dead letter and boast of nothing but the Spirit, although these people retain neither Word nor Spirit. But here you notice how Paul adduces Scripture as his strongest proof, for there is no other enduring way of preserving our doctrine and our faith than the physical or written Word, poured into letters and preached orally by him or others; for here we find it stated clearly: “Scripture! Scripture!” But Scripture is not all spirit, about which they drivel, saying that the Spirit alone must do it and that Scripture is a dead letter which cannot impart life. But the fact of the matter is that, although the letter by itself does not impart life, yet it must be present, and it must be heard or received. And the Holy Spirit must work through this in the heart, and the heart must be preserved in the faith through and in the Word against the devil and every trial. Otherwise, where this is surrendered, Christ and the Spirit will soon be lost. Therefore do not boast so much of the Spirit if you do not have the revealed external Word; for this is surely not a good spirit but the vile devil from hell. The Holy Spirit, as you know, has deposited His wisdom and counsel and all mysteries into the Word and revealed these in Scripture, so that no one can excuse himself. Nor must anyone seek or search for something else or learn or acquire something better or more sublime than what Scripture teaches of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior, who died and rose for us.

“In the second place, Paul does this in order to

resist (as I stated before) the temptation to take counsel with reason in this and other articles of faith, or to listen how the world with its wisdom presumes subtly to argue and to speculate about this. For if we consult these and permit them to teach us in this, faith will be crowded out, and this will be regarded as a foolish message and be made sheer mockery. That is what happened among the Corinthians, as we shall hear later. However, we who want to be Christians and men of faith must not look for or ask to see what human reason says here, or how this agrees with reason, but what Scripture teaches us, by which this was proclaimed in advance and is now confirmed by public testimony and experience. We let him who does not want to believe that go his way, for he will surely have or believe nothing at all of Christ or of the Gospel.

“And note how Paul again extols and exalts the testimony of Scripture and the external Word as he emphasizes and repeats the phrase “in accordance with the Scripture.” To be sure, he does not do this without reason. He does this in the first place to resist the mad spirits who disdain Scripture and the external message and in place of this seek other secret revelation. And today every place is also teeming with such spirits, confused by the devil, who regard Scripture a dead letter and boast of nothing but the Spirit, although these people retain neither Word nor Spirit. But here you notice how Paul adduces Scripture as his strongest proof, for there is no other enduring way of preserving our doctrine and our faith than the physical or written Word, poured into letters and preached orally by him or others; for here we find it stated clearly: “Scripture! Scripture!” But Scripture is not all spirit, about which they drivel, saying that the Spirit alone must do it and that Scripture is a dead letter which cannot impart life. But the fact of the matter is that, although the letter by itself does not impart life, yet it must be present, and it must be heard or received. And the Holy Spirit must work through this in the heart, and the heart must be preserved in the faith through and in the Word against the devil and every trial. Otherwise, where this is surrendered, Christ and the Spirit will soon be lost. Therefore

do not boast so much of the Spirit if you do not have the revealed external Word; for this is surely not a good spirit but the vile devil from hell. The Holy Spirit, as you know, has deposited His wisdom and counsel and all mysteries into the Word and revealed these in Scripture, so that no one can excuse himself. Nor must anyone seek or search for something else or learn or acquire something better or more sublime than what Scripture teaches of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior, who died and rose for us” (LW 28:75-77).



## Julian Daffodil Excursion



We wish to thank Laurie Floren for her many efforts organizing the congregational excursion to the Julian Daffodil Festival on Saturday, 22 March. Around 40 members and friends of St. Luke’s made the coach journey from St. Luke’s to Julian and back. We thank the coach company, Sun-Diego, for which Richard Deal drives, for providing the church with a discounted rate. We also thank Janan Laursen and Judi Cole for providing snacks to and from Julian, respectively. Reports regarding the venture were very positive indeed.



## Richard Deal in Concert



We wish to thank the American Guild of Organists - San Diego Chapter (AGOSD) for holding their recital on Saturday, 22 April, featuring from St. Luke’s perspective, Richard Deal in concert. It was very kind of the AGOSD to let other organists play that day too. We thank the AGOSD for their efforts promoting church music in general and specially those who play and are learning to play the organ, often called the “King of Instruments.”

## Men's Group Meets

St. Luke's Men will hold their first meeting on Tuesday, 01 April (no foolin'), with a BBQ/Grill extravaganza at 6:00 pm at the church. All St. Luke's men are invited to participate and join the fun. If you would like to help with the event, please contact Rick Godfrey.

## Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter

St. Luke's Easter celebrations are just around the corner. Palm Sunday service is at 9:00 am on 13 April. The Maundy Thursday service will take place at 7:00 pm on 17 April. The Good Friday service is likewise at 7:00 pm on 18 April. A glorious Easter Sunday service is planned for 20 April at 9:00 am. After the service, celebrations will continue with a plentiful Easter Sunday brunch. So, please mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to celebrate our Lord's give of eternal life won for us through his cross and resurrection.

## Easter Egg Hunt

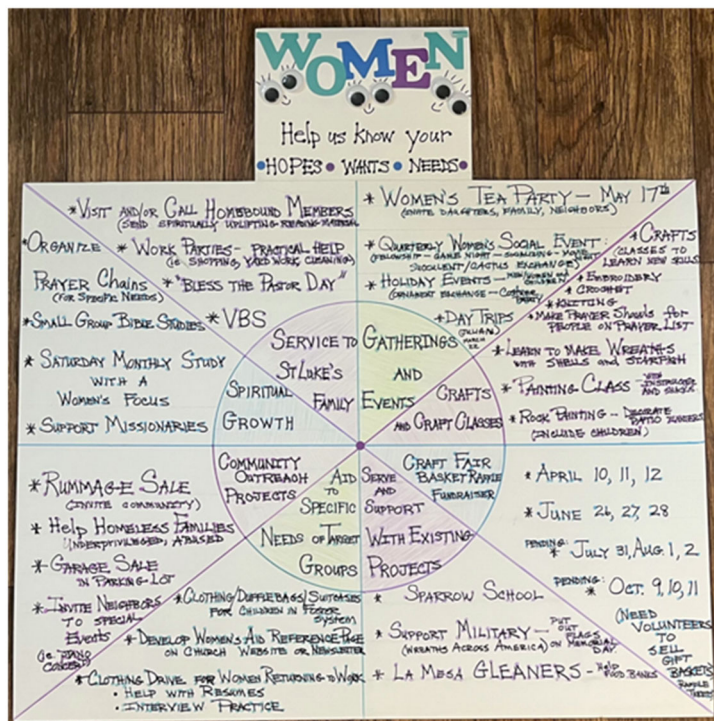


This year's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, 19 April, at 11:00 am. As in previous years there will be eggs to hunt, food to be eaten, and fun to be had. The Easter Egg Hunt is for children sixth grade and younger. We wish to thank Whitney Utley for organizing this year's hunt. If your children or their friends plan to attend, please try to inform Whitney in advance so that the church will have enough food on hand.

- Pastor Mark Menacher

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

What joy it was to meet together last month at our brief Women's Gathering on March 9th to view the collected seeds of ministry and shared activities to come.



The anticipatory excitement and energy in the room reflected brightly in your faces. What a marvelous blessing! Your ideas are rich and full of opportunities to grow in relationship with God and each other.



During that meeting, I commented about what seems to be the strategic timing of our discussion of possibilities in the midst of Lent and in anticipation of Easter.

Focusing on Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross and His victory in resurrection needs always be our primary goal.



When Paul lamented his thorn in the flesh, God said to him, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

I am confident that God wants to be our sufficiency and strength, too.

Your grace is sufficient for me. Lord Jesus, You're all that I need.  
Your Word I receive and your Spirit I heed.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

When I'm weary, You give me rest. When I'm searching, You end my quest.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

If I'm hungry, You satisfy. If I'm lonely, You stay close by.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

You give me all of your wealth; call me "Child" and draw me close to Yourself.  
Your Word I receive and Your Spirit I heed.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

At times I'm frightened, You give me peace. At times I'm angry, You give release.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

Should I be weak, You make me strong. Should I be saddened, You give a song.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.

Your grace is sufficient for me. Lord Jesus, You're all that I need.  
Your word I receive and Your Spirit I heed.  
Oh, Lord, You're sufficient for me.  
My Jesus, You're all that I need.

Ladies, let's continue to seek the Lord's guidance and provision in prayer as we walk together into all He desires for us as Women of St Luke's Lutheran Church.

Our Women's Tea is scheduled for May 17th—mark your calendars! Let's meet on April 6th after church in the lower level to discuss the event and sign up to participate.

May our seeds of possibilities blossom into dynamic blessings that honor God and nourish our friendships.

In His service,

*Laurie* 





**April 6, 2025 — Pending Volunteer**



**April 13, 2025— Pending Volunteer**

**April 20, 2025— Easter Brunch**

**April 27, 2025— Pending Volunteer**



## ***APRIL WORSHIP TEXTS***

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent — April 6, 2025**

First Lesson — Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Second Lesson — Philippians 3:4b-7

Gospel — Luke 20:9-20

### **Palm Sunday — April 13, 2025**

First Lesson — Psalm 118:19-29

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Lesson — Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel — John 12:12-19

### **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

#### **— Easter Sunrise — April 20, 2025**

First Lesson — Job 19:23-27

Psalm 118:15-29

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Gospel — John 20:1-18

### **Second Sunday of Easter**

#### **— April 27, 2025**

First Lesson — Acts 5:12-20

Psalm 148

Second Lesson — Revelation 1:4-18

Gospel — John 20:19-31



Whitney Utley 4/03

Thelma Pace 4/07

Dawn Dolan 4/12

Bonnie Halverson 4/13

Lyn Allen 4/18

Gary Coleman 4/21

Nancy Parkhurst 4/28

Maureen Sollenberger 4/29

Roy Wheeler 4/30

Deborah Haynes 4/30

*Happy  
Anniversary*

Mel & Judy Horning 4/18



## APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

### *“Praise the Lord, O My Soul”*

1	Psalm 103:13-22	<p><i>Praise the Lord! O Heavens, adore Him; Praise him angels in the light; Sun and moon, rejoice before him; Praise Him gleaming stars and light. Praise the Lord for he has spoken; Worlds his mighty voice obeyed; Laws which never shall be broken For their guidance he has made.</i></p> <p><i>Praise the Lord, for he is gracious; Never shall his promises fail. God has made his saints victorious; Sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation; Hosts on high, His power proclaim; Heaven and earth, and all creation, Loud and magnify his name!</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lutheran Book of Worship Hymn # 540 Verses 1 &amp; 2</i></p>
2	Psalm 146:1-10	
3	Psalm 89:5-14	
4	Ephesians 1:11-14	
5	Psalm 59:16-17	
6	Psalm 145:1-9	
7	Psalm 108:1-6	
8	Psalm 66:1-7	
9	Psalm 111:1-10	
10	I Peter 5:6-11	
11	Psalm 145:8-21	
12	Ephesians 2:3-10	
13	Psalm 98:1-9	
14	Psalm 33:1-9	
15	Colossians 1:11-20	
16	Jude 24,25	
17	Psalm 95:1-7	
18	Colossians 2:9-15	
19	Psalm 92:1-4	
20	Psalm 71:12-16	
21	Hebrews 13:12-15	
22	Psalm 89:14-18	
23	Psalm 40:1-3	
24	Isaiah 12:1-6	
25	I John 3:1-3	
26	Psalm 100:1-5	
27	Psalm 8:1-8	
28	Revelation 1:4-8	
29	I Peter 1:3-9	
30	Psalm 150	



## APRIL WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Carol Prior</i>
<b>6th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Nola + Rick Godfrey</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</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>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>13th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Mark Stanton</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard + Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Randy Engel &amp; Cheri Murrell</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion + Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Kim &amp; David Emerson</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Stasha Raschtschenia and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>27th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Ken &amp; Cheri Murrell</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Mary Ann Boullain</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Gary &amp; Carol Prior</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Stasha Raschtschenia</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>

# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Men's Group mtg 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>2</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:40 pm Choir	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 am Finding So- lutions for Seniors 8:00 am JOY
<b>6</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am WSL Tea mtg 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>8</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Council mtg 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>9</b> 11:00 am Staff 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Service 7:40 pm Choir	<b>10</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 4:00 pm Craft Fair 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Craft Fair	<b>12</b> 8:00 am JOY 9:00 am Craft Fair
<b>13</b> <b>Palms Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>14</b> 1:30 pm Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>15</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>16</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 7:00 pm Service	<b>17</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:45 pm Choir 6:30 pm Al-Anon <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Choir <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service at 7pm</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00 am JOY 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 pm Gideon's Int.
<b>20</b> 8:00 pm Choir <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Worship <b>HE IS RISEN</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>22</b> 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>23</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>29</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>30</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service			

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5150 WILSON ST.**

**LA MESA, CA 91942**

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NON-PROFIT  
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Dated Material  
April 2025

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
  - Bible Study: 10:00 am Wednesday 2nd & 16th in the lower Level
  - Book Club: Thursday the 24th at 12:00 pm in the library.

**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.*