

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

May 2024
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 24 Issue 5

The Power of Prayer

Abraham sends one of his servants to his people to find a bride for his son, Isaac. Arriving at the city of Nahor, the servant stops by a well outside the city and prays. "Before [Abraham's servant] had done speaking [i.e. praying], behold, Rebecca, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar upon her shoulder" (Genesis 24:15). This verse provides Luther with an occasion to teach us important lessons about prayer:

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 about membership with Pastor Mark:
619-463-6633 or office-sllc@att.net

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"From this passage one can get the explanation of the previous question in the servant's prayer, which included nearly all circumstances and prescribed to God. This conflicts with the doctrine of Christians and with the Word of God, which teaches that the time, place, and manner of doing something must be left to God, and that only the thing itself should be asked for, with the confidence that He will give it in His own time and place.

"But if help is delayed, one should not for this reason stop praying. Nevertheless, a time or something similar can be suggested, with a condition: "Lord God, if at this time or at this place it could be done as I would want it, I pray Thee not to fail me now," just as we are now praying for Philip [Melanchthon - Luther's colleague], who is away from us and lies seriously ill at Weimar, that God would restore to him his strength and health and preserve him longer for the church and the university.

Happy Mother's Day

Happy Memorial day
Office will be closed on
May 27th

“Furthermore, it is believable that the servant prayed in this manner not only at this hour, when he was standing at the spring, but during the entire journey; and when he had been commanded to journey to this region and Abraham had assured him that an angel would be his companion, it was necessary for him to specify the place and the time in accordance with the command and promise of his master. Nevertheless, because Abraham had released him from the obligation of the oath if he did not find a suitable wife for his son, he no doubt committed the entire affair to God’s care. If God did not want to give her from this land, city, or house, He would give a much more suitable wife from another place or in another manner.

“In addition, this passage presents a clear example of God’s mercy and kindness in hearing the prayers of the godly. By means of this example we are invited to pray, and our faith is marvelously strengthened against mistrust and doubt. For these events have been recorded, not for the sake of the servant but for your sake and mine. Before he had stopped speaking, behold, his prayer was heard; while he was speaking, God said yes to his prayer.

“Therefore let us persuade ourselves without any hesitation that God is ever so ready and prompt to hear our prayer and to grant what we ask for, as Ps. 66:20 praises Him: “Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!” And the name of God that is suitable to the highest degree and proper is Hearer of Prayer. Indeed, it is just as proper as the familiar name Creator of Heaven and Earth.

“And God not only hears a prayer that is offered without specifying particulars; but let us maintain that even at the very moment a prayer is uttered that which is asked for is being done or has been done, just as very

many ever so pleasing words of the psalms testify, such as “To Thee they cried, and were saved” (Ps. 22:5), where simply no particular at all is added.

“Consequently, the one who cries out is here; God, who hears is there. Just cry out, and you will be heard, as Ps. 34:5 urges: “Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.” And from this source Isaiah has taken the very beautiful promise (65:24): “Before they call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” Thus in one place Bernard has stated excellently and piously: “Brethren, do not despise your prayers; but know that as soon as you begin to pray, your prayer is read and written down at once in the presence of the Divine Majesty.”

“Of this way of praying all the monks have no knowledge, for they merely mumble their prayers on account of obedience to the church or to their own rule. Accordingly, you should pray with such trust and full assurance that you maintain that your prayer has been heard before it leaves your mouth. But if what you are asking for is not granted so quickly, your prayer will not on this account be in vain. It will be granted in His time, and what you wish will be granted, or something far better and more desirable.

“Therefore let there be no doubt whatever about being heard. Indeed, when I ask God to hallow His name against the pope and against the Turk, I know that my prayer has certainly been heard before I add the amen; for before I have begun to pray, God has seen the motion and the desire of my heart, and this He sees and hears far sooner than my lips utter the words.

“But hindrances of many kinds are put in the way, for the devil resists and disturbs this

confidence in whatever way he can. Our flesh and hearts do not burn with faith; nor are they stirred by constantly meditating on and dealing with the statements and examples of this kind that should be reflected on by the heart and often repeated for the purpose of stirring us up to prayer against the pope and all potentates who persecute sound doctrine. But if the desired effect or result does not follow this year, it will surely follow in another year.

“But among all the examples of prayers the one described in Dan. 9:20–21 is outstanding and a jewel, so to speak. I earnestly commend it to all godly people. Daniel says: “While I was still speaking and praying, etc., behold, the man Gabriel, etc.” All this is described, not in order that we should read it only once in passing, the way we are accustomed to become acquainted with secular examples, but that we may be instructed, and in such a manner that we maintain that it pertains to us. Nor should we have any doubt about being heard; but we should leave the place, the time, and all particulars to the will and counsel of God.

“Whoever does this will experience through the actual result how wonderful the power and efficacy of prayer is. For “likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weakness ... and intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words” (Rom. 8:26). And Eph. 3:20 states: “Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” We ask solely for these outward blessings: peace, quiet, good health, and the things necessary for this life. But God’s power surpasses all our understanding, hope, and asking. Consequently, God bestows on those who call upon Him more and greater things than the human heart can comprehend or request; for we worship Him whose power and beneficence are boundless. Indeed, He also determines all the particulars, the place, the time, and

the person far better and more successfully than we would prescribe with our thinking. Therefore let us habituate and stir up our hearts to prayer, in order that many may pray together; for the greater the number of those who will pray, the more quickly and more abundantly they will get what they ask for. But one must pray in the name of Christ, not of Mary, Peter, or other saints, as the papists are in the habit of doing. But of this we have often spoken elsewhere.

“Up to this point Moses [as author of Genesis] has described the faith and prayer of the servant; for faith must precede in all our works and activities, even in the smallest. Whether we eat, sleep, or engage in domestic or civic services, everything should proceed from faith, prayer, and thanksgiving, since the works of the godly should be good and pleasing to God. This cannot be the case unless fervent faith and prayer to do and direct everything are present. Paul suggests the same thing in Col. 3:17: “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (LW 4:266–269).



WSL News

On Thursday, April 18, seven women met for our second quarterly meeting of the year for Women of St. Luke's (WSL). Future ministry opportunities were shared and planned. We thank our LORD for each woman of our congregation and value the varied talents and ideas to share.

White Elephant BINGO Night and Dinner:

The Bingo night may be just a memory now. It is hoped that everyone enjoyed this experience!

Lutheran World Relief Projects:

We've managed to have at least four ladies present for the past month. So, quilts continue to be assembled! Thank you, ladies, for remembering to come on out on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 9:00 – 11:00. In the lower level, Eugenio sets up raised tables for easier cutting, stretching, and pinning. Then, we send the quilt home with someone to zigzag stitch the edging! Easy Peasy!! Even if you can't come out regularly, come try it sometime, please. A couple of our regulars are going to be away for the summer months. We hate to have Eugenio set everything up just to have to have him take it down again.

Church Library:

You may not be aware of our beautiful library adjacent to the church office. We want to remind everyone that the Church Library is open to all members whenever the office is open. The only known exception is during Staff Meetings, on Wednesdays at 11 am.

Next Applecrate Craft Faire:

Scheduled dates are June 20-22, 2024. We will again need folks (men or women) to help us sell tickets for the beautiful baskets and WSL quilt. This is the major portion of our income for WSL charitable giving throughout the year. Please sign up.

Distribution of Income:

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, to nominate, select, and designate amounts for WSL recipient ministries. The funds to be disbursed were raised by WSL at the recent Craft Faires.

WSL's Next Quarterly Meeting:

The next WSL meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, at 9:00 am. Please consider joining us. We are so much stronger when we combine our gifts and time.

East County Pregnancy Care Clinic Fundraiser:

East County Pregnancy Care Clinic Fundraiser: in lieu of our customary St. Luke's Summer Baby Shower, we have a great opportunity to help fund this local resource. Look soon for Baby Bottles and Flyers around the church campus. Please help fill the bottles with donations, cash or checks, and return the bottles to the church office. Jeannie Meranda will present these filled bottles to the clinic in Santee this summer. Next spring we plan to host a Spring Baby Shower for this ministry!



Welcome to St. Luke's Dana and Donna

Dana and Donna met five years ago. They love being with family and having dinner with friends; and best of all, they love playing pickle ball and taking long bike rides on the bay.

Dana is a retired Operating Engineer, working on a concrete boom pump assembling many high-rise buildings and bridges in San Diego.

Donna is mother of three and grandmother to six. She is a secretary at a law firm in La Jolla and published her first novel in 2019.

They are delighted to be a part of St. Luke's Lutheran family!

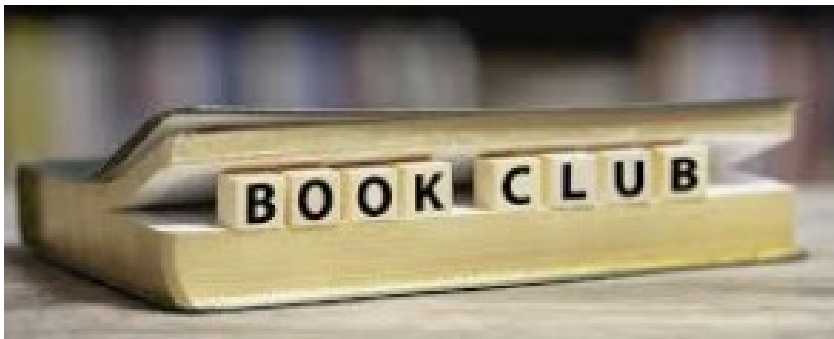




VBS with VBQ in July

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) will again be a weekend event scheduled for 20-21 July! Saturday, 20 July, will be a full day of fun learning for children aged Kindergarten through sixth grade. Educational opportunities will be available for adults too. Sunday will continue the activities with worship, final VBS lessons, and the a congregational VBS BBQ, aka VBQ.

The VBS curriculum has yet to be selected. If you wish to volunteer to help with decorating, teaching, crafts, games, food preparation, cooking, and cleaning up, please contact Tania Salas.



SLLC Book Club

St. Luke's Book Club meets at the Church Library on the LAST Thursday of each month to discuss a book we all have read during the month. For the month of April (April 25th) our book to was Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, a lovely fiction story about Shakespeare's chosen son Hamnet. The main theme of the book is one of love for a lost son. The book is well written and an endearing story with many tender moments, especially about Hamnet's mother (Shakespeare's wife). O'Farrell does a masterful job taking the reader back to 1500's England. You will enjoy reading about this sweet family. At the April 25th meeting our group decide on a book for our May 30th meeting. If you have any questions about that book, please contact Karen Skullerud.

MAY WORSHIP TEXTS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

— May 5, 2024

First Lesson — Acts 10:34-48

Psalm 98

Second Lesson — 1 John 5:1-8

Gospel — John 15:9-17

Seventh Sunday of Easter

— May 12, 2024

First Lesson — Acts 1:12-26

Psalm 1

Second Lesson — 1 John 5:9-15

Gospel — John 17:11b-19

Day of Pentecost — May 19, 2024

First Lesson — Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 139:1-12 (13-16)

Second Lesson — Acts 2:1-21

Gospel — John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Holy Trinity — May 26, 2024

First Lesson — Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Second Lesson — Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Gospel — John 3:1-17



Shirley Carrington 5/7/1946

Isabelle Reisert 5/13/2011

Randy Engel 5/15/1953

Theresa East 5/17/1959

Ryan Yerger 5/19/1999

Jeannie Meranda 5/28/1940

Janice Urich 5/30/1940



Mark & Denise Stephens 5/30



May 5th — Pat Kettler

May 12th — Host needed

May 19th — Host needed

May 26th — Host needed

MAY PRAYER CALENDAR

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

1	Romans 3:21-26	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Beneath the cross of Jesus</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I long to take my stand;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The shadow of a mighty rock</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Within a weary land,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A home within the wilderness,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A rest upon the way,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>From the burning of the noontide heat</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And burden of the day.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Upon the cross of Jesus,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>My eye at times can see</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The very dying form of one</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Who suffered there for me</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And from my contrite heart, with tears,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Two wonders I confess:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The wonder of his glorious love</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And my unworthiness.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I take, O cross, your shadow</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Foe my abiding place;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I ask no other sunshine than</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The sunshine of his face;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Content to let the world go by,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To know no gain or loss,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>My sinful self my only shame,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>My glory all, the cross.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Hymn # 107</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i></p>
2	Isaiah 53:10-11	
3	Hebrews 2:9-11	
4	Romans 5:6-8	
5	Colossians 2:13-15	
6	Ephesians 1:7-10	
7	Romans 5:9-11	
8	Philippians 2:5-11	
9	Colossians 1:19-22	
10	Hebrews 9:11-15	
11	Hebrews 10:11-18	
12	Ephesians 2:13-18	
13	Hebrews 10:19-23	
14	I Peter 1:17-21	
15	2 Corinthians 5:13-17	
16	Galatians 3:10-14	
17	Hebrews 7:23-28	
18	I Peter 3:18-22	
19	Hebrews 13:11-15	
20	Galatians 2:19-21	
21	Ephesians 5:25-27	
22	Titus 2:11-14	
23	Hebrews 2:14-18	
24	I Thessalonians 5:9-11	
25	Romans 7:4-6	
26	Hebrews 13:20-21	
27	Romans 6:1-7	
28	Romans 6:8-11	
29	Hebrews 12:1-3	
30	Revelation 1:4-8	
31	Revelation 5:6-14	

MAY WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader(s) *Jillian Barnard*
 Altar Guild *JoAnn Hendrickson*

5th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Bob Urich</i> <i>Gleason Snashall & JoAnn Hendrickson</i> <i>Jillian Barnard</i> <i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i> <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> <i>Cheryl & Bob Gray</i>
12th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Judi Cole</i> <i>Laurie Floren & Terry East</i> <i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i> <i>MaryAnn Boullain</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Randy Engel & Cheri Murrell</i>
21st	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Cheri & Ken Murrell</i> <i>Jillian Barnard</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> <i>David & Kim Emerson</i>
28th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Gleason Snashall</i> <i>Jillian Barnard & Terri East</i> <i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Gary & Carol Priors</i>

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 WSL Bible Study 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	2 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al-Anon	3	4 9:00 am AA
5 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:30 pm Al-Anon	6 9:00 am Counters 6:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA Speaker Group	7 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30- 8 pm Special Olympics	8 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	9 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al-Anon	10	11 9:00 am AA 10:00 am Bible Study
12 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:30 pm Al-Anon	13 9:00 am Counters 6:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA Speaker Group	14 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg 7:00pm SLTA	15 10:00 WSL Bible Study 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service 5:00 Al-Anon Awards	16 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al-Anon	17	18 9:00 am AA 1:30 Gideons Int'l 4:00 pm Congregation Dinner
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:30 pm Al-Anon	20 9:00 am Counters 6:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA Speaker Group	21 8:00am Tai Ch 10:00 Bible Study	22 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	23 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al-Anon	24	25 9:00 am AA 10:00am Bible Study
26 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:30 pm Al-Anon	27 9:00 am Counters :00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA Speaker Group	28 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day 10:00 Bible Study	29 10:00 WSL Bible Study 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	30 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al-Anon 12:00 pm Book Club	31	

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dated Material
May 2024

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
 - Book Club: 12:00 pm on May 30th

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.