

# 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)

October 2023  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 23 Issue 10

## Welcome Aboard Guadalupe "Lupita" Contreras

### We invite you to join St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Please contact Lupita 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)

The church has been successful in finding a qualified, perhaps overqualified, candidate to assume the Office-Campus Manager position after Debbie Deal was offered another position. Lupita Contreras is highly qualified in a number of areas having worked in banking, real estate, county services, communications, insurance, and construction project coordination. She has two children, speaks Spanish, and has a warm, friendly disposition. We are grateful that Amy Hoffman was willing and able to return from Arizona during the week of 18-22 September to orient Lupita to the wide variety of duties which need to be accomplished about the church. If you have a chance, please pop into the office and introduce yourself to Lupita.

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### Bible Study— Wednesdays

10:00am

### Quarterly Congregational Meeting—October 22



### Reformation Fest Anyone?

At the July congregational meeting, the church council solicited suggestions for observing Reformation Sunday. Unfortunately, the church council has not received any suggestions as of yet. That said, there is plenty of time for a few keen members to hammer out details for a Reformation Fest. If you are interested in helping plan or organize a congregational Reformation event, please contact Pastor Mark or Judi Cole.

## Sin Boldly? or Sin Boldly!

Martin Luther is known for making interesting and sometimes seemingly outrageous statements. Luther did so because he sought to help people break out of their narrow view of God and of God's salvation offered to all humanity. Many of us have likely heard that Luther advised people to "sin boldly." That definitely sounds outrageous, especially coming from a great Reformer of the church. The command to "sin boldly," however, is only half of the phrase. For those who have heard this first part, do you recall what the subsequent portion is? Before moving onto that second part, let us stop at the already quoted bit.

"Sin boldly!" What sinner among us does not like to hear words like that? On one hand, we all know that sinning is bad and that sinful deeds arise from us sinners having broken relationship with God. Every Sunday we confess the gravity of our sin by saying that "we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves" and that "we are by nature sinful and unclean" deserving God's "present and eternal punishment." On the other hand, encouragement to "sin boldly" seems too good to be true. It sounds like permission to go out and flout all Ten Commandments in one go. So, let's have a little contest. Whoever can break all Ten Commandment the quickest wins the prize. That sounds like a great party game or a really raucous ice breaker in the church new members class. Imagine the newly found affection which teenage catechism pupils would have for Luther. We

can almost see the headlines now. "Entire Church Youth Group Arrested for ...!" (acting like their parents, probably).

Whereas many of us can remember the challenge to "sin boldly," the knowledge of a continuation to that phrase might leave us feeling a little uneasy. We often see, hear, know, or experience what happens when we or others "sin boldly." It fills the pages of the newspapers and energizes the internet. Sinning boldly comes with all manner of warning labels on all manner of consumer goods, whether aimed at adults or not. Currently, California legislators want to ban "red dye" as "harmful" because it might lead people, God forbid, to die of dye. So, the hope to cast the dye into oblivion. Meanwhile, those same Californian legislators have legalized all manner of much more harmful and lethal substances, practices, and procedures than the "red dye die" could ever pose. Perhaps such legislators are really keen Luther scholars. The legalizing of very harmful and lethal substances, practices, and procedures does sound much more like "sin boldly" than does eating a few Skittles® or the like.

The idea of sin and sinning carries with it an explicit or implicit judgment of right and wrong. Sin is wrong, and not sinning is right, or at least not wrong. When Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent to ignore God in order to know the difference between good and evil, they were led to believe that bad was good, and good was bad. So, they sinned boldly, and the rest of humanity has, only because of God's continual graciousness, been a mitigated disaster ever since.

So, what was Luther actually saying? In a letter to his sidekick, Philip Melancthon, on 01 August 1521, Luther wrote,

If you are a preacher of grace, then preach a true and not a fictitious grace; if grace is true, you must bear a true and not a fictitious sin. God does not save people who are only fictitious sinners. Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world. As long as we are here [in this world] we have to sin. This life is not the dwelling place of righteousness, but, as Peter says, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. It is enough that by the riches of God's glory we have come to know the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. No sin will separate us from the Lamb, even though we commit fornication and murder a thousand times a day. Do you think that the purchase price that was paid for the redemption of our sins by so great a Lamb is too small? Pray boldly—you too are a mighty sinner" (LW 48:281-282).

Rather than admitting our mighty sins in light of the all-mighty graciousness of Almighty God, in our sin, fear, and unbelief, we seek instead to minimize our sins by minimizing God. Taken to its logical conclusion, if God does not exist, then *voilà*, we are no longer sinners, at least in relation to a non-existent God. Instead, however, we become not only sinners but also

at times criminals in relation to politicians who want to play god and tell us what is right and what is wrong, regardless of what God in scripture has said.

Every October, we Lutherans celebrate Reformation Day (31 October), or at the very least Reformation Sunday towards the end of October. In Luther's day, in the name of God the papacy had dispensed with God and created an intricate and elaborate labyrinth of ways for sinful human beings to work out their salvation apart from Christ. In this system, the church was right, and God was wrong. In our day, while despising the name of God, atheists have banished God from society and offer instead new vistas of secular salvation both apart from and contrary to Christ.

In our milieu, "sinning boldly" is praised, and believing, even timidly, is ridiculed. Over against the godlessness and ungodliness of the secularized world around us, let us in their eyes "sin boldly" by believing and rejoicing "in Christ even more boldly" because nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Joyous Reformation celebrations to you all!

Pastor Mark

## Reformation Day

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, sustain Your Church. Deliver her from error and preserve in her the proclamation of Your Gospel, that it would resound to every nation, tribe, people and language and that all may fear and give You glory. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, look with compassion on all who are blind to the bondage of their sin. Open their eyes by the words of Jesus, and grant them the true freedom of sonship and a permanent place in Your household. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all civil authorities, especially our president; Congress; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Protect them from the temptations that beset their offices, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve with integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, be near to all who cry to You for healing of body and soul [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. Grant them release from their afflictions according to Your will. Sustain their hope in the full and final healing that awaits them at the day of Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home to see our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Quarterly Congregational Meeting  
October 22nd.

Office/Campus closed in observance of Columbus Day October 9th.

WSL "Thank Offering" begins this month, envelopes available  
in bulletins & on usher's desk.

### Women of St. Luke's Committee

We are approaching the season of sharing, when our St Luke's members have always been so kind and generous to those in our community who need help.

"Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? Matthew 35: 37

May you and your family be blessed during this holiday season.

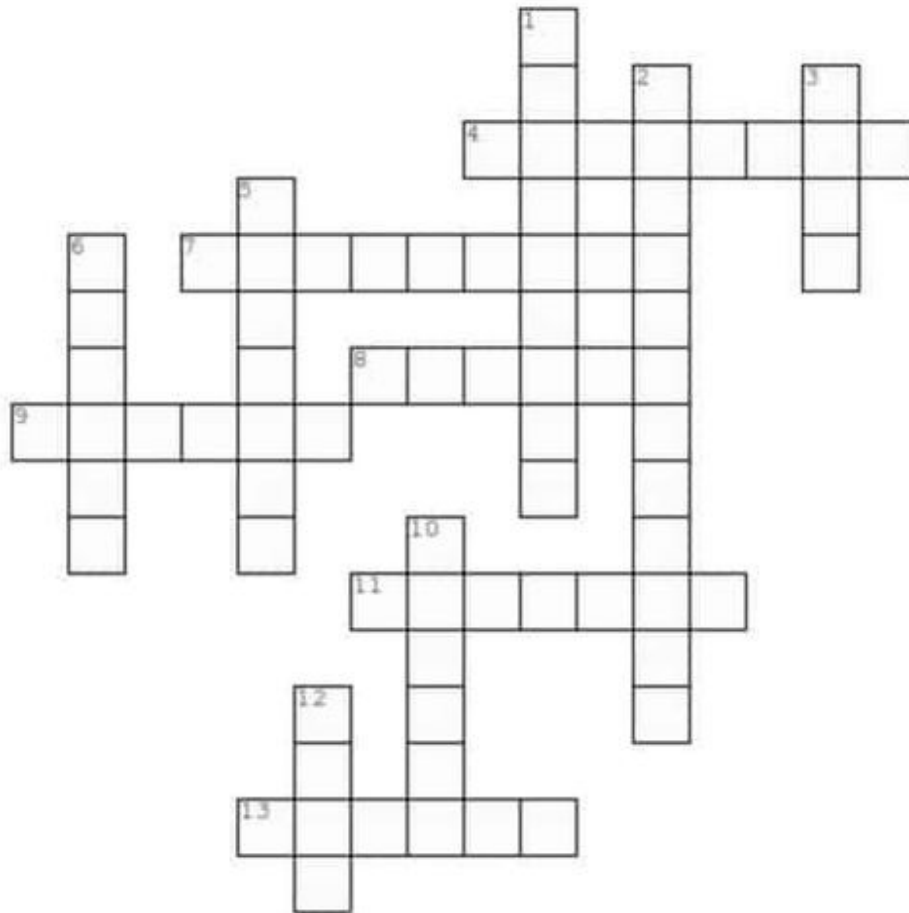
*Your generosity allows us to support many worthy causes throughout the year as well as respond to emergency situations worldwide through Lutheran World Relief.*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO

WOMEN OF ST. LUKE'S



# Fall Crossword



**Acorns**    **Corn**    **Harvest**    **Scarecrow**    **Pumpkin**    **Orange**  
**Autumn**    **Rake**    **Halloween**    **Thanksgiving**    **Hashanah**    **Leaves**  
**Rodent**

## Across

- 4.** Jewish Holiday, Rosh \_\_\_\_\_  
**7.** Scary Holiday  
**8.** Fall from oak trees  
**9.** Change colors  
**11.** For carving and pie  
**13.** Color

## Down

- 1.** Used to frighten birds  
**2.** Feast Holiday  
**3.** Tool to clean the grass of leaves  
**5.** Marks the end of the growing season  
**6.** Squirrel  
**10.** Another name for Fall  
**12.** Grows on stalks





Matthew Mylerberg	October 4
Judy Kirk	October 8
Sheila Stubbs	October 10
Tori Haulk	October 20
Gail Knippelmeyer	October 21
Stewart Mossman	October 23
Jack Hendrickson	October 28

Are we missing your birthday? anniversary?

Please contact the office to add your special day to our database so we can celebrate you!

Email information to [office-sllc@att.net](mailto:office-sllc@att.net)  
or phone 619-463-6633

## COFFEE HOUR

*Sign up to bring treats and coffee for our fellowship hour!*

**See the sign up sheet in the kitchen.**

- 10/1—Brad Sollenberger
- 10/8— Stephanie Brown
- 10/15— Carol Prior
- 10/22— Congregational Meeting
- 10/29 — Dianne Foreman



Each month our newsletter is published for free due to the advertisements of local businesses. Please take a moment each month and see if the services they provide could help you!

**RANDY & GENE ENGEL**  
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Would you like to advertise your business? Do you know a business which may want to advertise with us? Contact Sara Ramic Advertising Sales Executive p: 800-477-4574 ext1659 or email [sramic@4lpi.com](mailto:sramic@4lpi.com)

## October Prayer Calendar

## “How Firm a Foundation”

1	Ephesians 1:3-14
2	Colossians 2:9-14
3	Philippians 4:4-9
4	Psalm 103: 1-5
5	Isaiah 40:27-31
6	James 1: 1-5, 12
7	Romans 5: 1-5
8	Romans 8: 14-18
9	Psalm 119: 169-176
10	11 Peter 1: 1-4
11	Romans 8: 33-39
12	Romans 8: 33-39
13	I Corinthians 1:26-31
14	I John 3:1-3
15	Psalm 116: 1-7
16	Luke 11:5-13
17	Hebrews 6: 13-20
18	I Thessalonians 5:4-11
19	Lamentations 3: 19-26
20	I Corinthians 1:3-9
21	I Peter 1:3-9
22	I Peter 4:12-19
23	1 Peter 5: 6-11
24	Psalm 91:14
25	Colossians 1: 9-14
26	Psalm 23: 1-6
27	II Corinthians 1:18-22
28	Isaiah 53: 1-6
29	Romans 8:26-30
30	John 6:35-40
31	I John 3:1-3

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Hymn #128



VS 1, 2, 4

LSB



## OCTOBER WORSHIP TEAMS

- Reader *Dianne Durenberger*
- Altar Guild *Shirley Carrington*
- 1st      Communion Assistant — Wine *Cheri Murrell + Ted Olsen*  
 Communion Assistant — Bread *Bob Urich*
- Prayers of the People *Pastor Mark Menacher*
- Projectionist *Shirley Carrington*
- Usher Team *Randy Engel*
- 
- 8th      Communion Assistant — Wine *Judi Cole + Jillian Barnard*  
 Communion Assistant — Bread *Cheri Murrell*
- Prayers of the People *Dianne Durenberger*
- Projectionist *Gail Knippelmeyer*
- Greeter *JoAnn Hendrickson*
- Usher Team *Bob Gray*
- 
- 15th     Communion Assistant — Wine *Cheri Murrell + Terry East*  
 Communion Assistant — Bread *Gleason Snashall*
- Prayers of the People *Randy Engel*
- Projectionist *Shirley Carrington*
- Usher Team *Dave + Kim Emerson*
- 
- 22nd    Communion Assistant — Wine *Cheri Murrell + Jillian Barnard*  
 Communion Assistant — Bread *Judi Cole*
- Prayers of the People *Laurie Floren*
- Projectionist *Shirley Carrington*
- Usher Team *Bob Gray*
- 
- 29th    Communion Assistant — Wine *Cheri Murrell + Gleason Snashall*  
 Communion Assistant — Bread *Ted Olson*
- Prayers of the People *Laurie Floren*
- Projectionist *Gail Knippelmeyer*
- Usher Team *Randy Engel*

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
	2	3 8:00 am Tai Chi	4 5:30—Choir Practice	5 8:00 am Tai Chi	6	7 
8	9 Office/ Campus Closed 	10 8:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 Council meeting	11 10 am—Bible Studies 5:30—Choir Practice	12 8:00 am Tai Chi	13	14
15	16	17	18 10 am—Bible Studies 5:30—Choir Practice	19 8:00 am Tai Chi	20	21 5 pm—Bingo Night
22 Quarterly Congregational meeting	23	24 8:00 am Tai Chi	25 10 am—Bible Studies 5:30—Choir Practice	26 8:00 am Tai Chi	27	28
29 Reformation Fest?	30	31 8:00 am Tai Chi				

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Dated Material  
October 2023

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

- Worship Service: Sundays at 9:00 am
- Bible Study—Hebrews on Wednesdays.
- Office/Campus Closed—October 9th.
- Choir Practice—Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
- Quarterly Congregational Meeting—October 22nd after worship service.
- St. Luke's Theological Academy course Sundays and Tuesdays.
- WSL— Thank Offering collection begins.

**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.*