

# 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)

October 2025  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 25 Issue 10

## *Reformation Day, Again?*

### *How Boring.*

**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)

One could rightly say, that we Lutherans probably (sic), find Reformation Day, a little passé (Look, I made a rhyme!). That rhyme may be the most exciting aspect of this tedious contribution to the October 2026 Parish Rebuilder, or maybe not. You decide.

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For roughly 500 years, Lutherans have marked the 31st of October as Reformation Day. On that day in 15?? (do you know which year?), Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses against Indigestion (how many of them have you ever read?) because he suffered from a steady diet of bratwurst and sauerkraut. Contributing to this situation, while in the monastery Brother Martin distinguished himself by taking all that monkey business so seriously that it probably exacerbated his troublesome tummy. This ailment grew ever worse, and finally Luther decided that he could no longer stomach the mayhem in the church. So, gaining renewed intestinal fortitude, Luther developed the Reformation Diet of Worms and launched the now renowned celebration of Halloween! See, so boring.

## **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, October 24th  
at 10:00 a.m. in the LL

Of course, the Lutheran understanding of the Reformation encompasses much more than Luther publishing his Ninety-five Theses. When posting them, Luther was seeking to correct an abuse of church theology and practice which the pope and some bishops were using to line their pockets with payments for penance which seemed much more satisfactory for sinners than actually doing their penance.

In the Roman Church, then and now, committing sins has two aspects. First, one has broken a commandment of God or of the church, and second, breaking a commandment meant that somehow somewhere damage has been done. So, to address both problems, one first goes to a priest to confess one's sins and to receive absolution. Then, the priest assigns some task to do to compensate for the damages caused by sinning.

In my standard example, if you steal Billy's basketball, you have broken (which?) commandment, and Billy is deprived of his basketball. So, to address this mess, you trot off to church, confess your sins to the priest, received absolution from the priest, and then, it is up to the priest to prescribe penance. For penance, he could instruct you to return Billy's basketball or to buy Billy a new basketball or perhaps to say ten Hail Mary's, which is actually more appropriate for stealing Billy's football (do you remember this example from last year? - so boring). If you should kick the basketball (die) before doing your penance, you end up in purgatory not passing Go and not collecting \$200 to buy indulgences to reduce your time in purgatory.

As we know, Luther challenged this and many other unscriptural notions which had infested and still infest the Roman Church. Through the word of God in both law and gospel, however, Luther rediscovered the gospel-filled doctrine that sinners are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, thus demythologizing the church. In other words, because we pathetic sinners had completely sabotaged our relationship with God, only God could save us by sending his son in human flesh to recreate our relationship with him. God did and does this purely as a gift.

That is why Reformation Day is so boring. There

is nothing for us Lutherans to do to effect our salvation. Nothing! As a consequence, we Lutherans just sit around looking at each other wondering all the while, now what? That is when the mischievous sinner in us says, "Well, since it is the 31st of October, we could do something exciting like dress up in ghoulish costumes and go trick-or-treating, right?"

While passing out free sweet treats to tots, would we not rather prefer to give the gift of God's word which creates a living faith in sinners? When was the last time you affixed a slip of paper with a Bible verse to those pieces of candy for trick-or-treaters on Halloween or maybe even one of Luther's Ninety-five Theses against Indulgences?

If you were freed from a great burden or debt or injury or malady with no cost or effort on your part, what would you do? Among the many possibilities, it is probably highly likely that you would tell someone about this great happening in your life. We human beings speak, and we find it almost impossible not to tell someone when something bad or good has happened to us.

For centuries, the church buried the gospel of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone under a monolith of mendacity. Luther's rediscovery of the gospel, that we are saved on account of Christ as a free gift, is an amazing reality which we find almost too good to believe. The secular world and even many "Christian" denominations bury this truth again and again in one exciting way or another by turning the gospel of salvation into something which we need to do, earn, achieve, or prove.

For us Lutherans, however, knowing that there is nothing which we can do towards our salvation is both a relief and a release to share this same

gift of God's word and love with others. Whereas we cannot earn salvation by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, in such sharing we are giving God's gift of salvation to others. Give it a try. The recipients might actually find this good news quite exciting. If so, there is no need to worry. In due course, we can help them become boring, do-nothing-for-our-salvation Lutherans like the rest of us.



## Men's Group Resumes

After a brief hiatus in August and September due to unforeseen circumstances, please be advised that the St. Luke's Men's Group, for lack of a better name, has not disappeared. Feedback indicates that the men will be resuming with a more flexible format and schedule, inclusion of service projects at St. Luke's and in the community, Christian educational opportunities, fellowship, and who knows what else. If you have questions or suggestions for a re-organizational brainstorming meeting, please see Pastor Mark.



## Oktoberfest Anyone?

The congregation is looking for volunteers to help organize a little (or a big) Oktoberfest on Sunday, 26 October, after the quarterly congregational meeting. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Judi Cole, Pastor Mark, or Terry East. Whereas the church council is happy to cover the costs of the event, the church will need meal planning, shopping, food preparation and cooking, setup and clean up, etc. In other words, there would be plenty of duties for men and woman alike, perhaps even some children. Feel free to invite relatives, friends, and enemies.

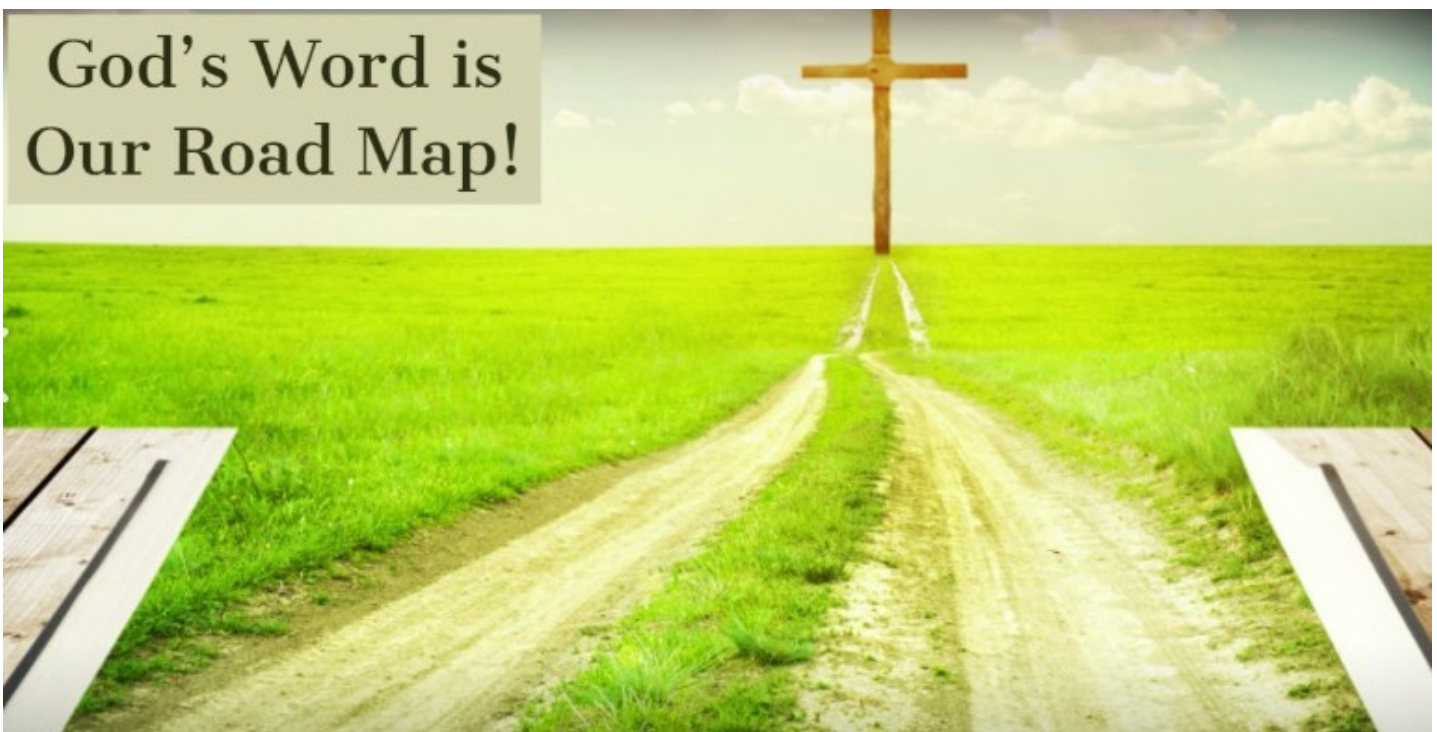
## Reformation Competition

Please note! To make the Reformation Day (October 26th) less boring, a special \$250 prize will be given to the participant(s) who can recite all of Luther's Ninety-five Theses against Indulgences from memory. Pastor Mark can provide complementary copies of the competition theses to interested persons.



Dear Women of St. Luke's,

I have never had a real good sense of direction. If I am driving in a new location and feel as though I should turn right, most probably I should, in fact, turn left. My friends and family long ago refused to take driving instructions from me since I was most often incorrect. (SIGH!) Even though I am very observant in most situations, I can even park my car at Costco, head in to shop feeling quite confident that I know the location of my parked car, only to spend lots of time and many steps going up and down the rows looking for my car. So very frustrating! I have realized long ago that, if I go into a store with multiple entrances, it is essential that I be very careful to record identifying markers for the entrance that I used unless I want to go on an extended search to retrace my steps after shopping. Needless to say, I fully appreciate my GPS. I like clear directions from a knowledgeable source and am so grateful for step by step instructions.



Years ago I discovered a Biblical “road map” to the development of HOPE. Romans 5:1-2 states:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” These two verses declare that access to faith and grace and the hope of the glory of God is given through Jesus’ death and resurrection. He opens the way of us and gifts us the hope of the glory of God. So wonderful!

But the next five verses describe the “road map” to developing hope from the inside out. Romans 5:3-5 states: “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”



So, the road map is 1. Suffering ... 2. Perseverance ... 3. Character ... 4. Hope! WOW! Rejoicing is NOT my first response to suffering. I tend to want to turn the other way and get far away from suffering. But God's word tells us that looking to God in our suffering produces perseverance ... and a reason to rejoice. Leaning into perseverance develops character. Another reason to rejoice! Pursuing this character builds Hope – hope that will not disappoint because God pours His love into us! WOW!



God gifts us with the hope of the glory of God and He helps us grow through life's struggles (which we all have) to persevere, develop character and build hope from the inside out. I want to lean into that process.

During September, we started to have Story Telling Saturdays. We will have more gatherings to share joys and sorrows, successes and struggles. As we share stories from our individual life journeys, I pray that we can rejoice together, encourage each other and navigate this road map to HOPE. May we experience God's love and grace in new and wonderful ways.

Hoping to see you at a Story Telling Saturday.

In His service,

*Laurie*





### *Coffee Hour Hosts for October*

Thank  
You

October 5th — Jennifer Killion

October 12th — Pending host

October 19th — Pending host

October 26th — Carol & Gary Prior

Thank  
You



## **OCTOBER WORSHIP TEXTS**

### **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

— **October 5th**

First Lesson — Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 62

Second Lesson — 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel — Luke 17:1-10

Happy  
Birthday

### **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

— **October 12th**

First Lesson — Ruth 1:1-19a

Psalm 111

Second Lesson — 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Gospel — Luke 17:11-19

Judy Kirk	10/8
Sheila Stubbs	10/10
Tori Hauk	10/20
Gail Knippelmeyer	10/21
Stewart Mossman	10/23
Jack Hendrickson	10/28

### **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

— **October 19th**

First Lesson — Genesis 32:22-30

Psalm 121

Second Lesson — 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Gospel — Luke 18:1-8

### **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

— **October 26th**

First Lesson — Genesis 4:1-15

Psalm 5

Second Lesson — 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel — Luke 18:9-17

Congratulations!

# OCTOBER PRAYER CALENDAR

## "Song of Praise"

1	Exodus 34:6-9	<p><i>Give to our God Immortal praise! Mercy and truth Are all His ways, Wonders of Grace To God belong; Repeat His mercies In your song.</i></p>
2	Psalms 145:1-21	
3	Psalms 3:1-8	
4	Psalms 9:9-12	
5	I Peter 1:3-7	
6	Lamentations 3:19-26	
7	Psalms 28:6-9	
8	Psalms 13:1-6	
9	Isaiah 40:27-31	
10	Psalms 23:1-6	
11	Psalms 25:4-7	
12	Psalms 31:21-24	
13	Psalms 119:169-176	
14	Psalms 69:13-16	
15	I Peter 2:9-10	
16	Psalms 86:10-13	
17	Psalms 145:13-21	
18	John 1:14-18	<p><i>He sent His son With power to save From guilt and darkness And the grave. Wonders of Grace To God belong, Repeat His mercies In your song.</i></p>
19	Titus 3:4-7	
20	Ephesians 2:1-7	
21	Ephesians 1:11-14	
22	Isaiah 25:6-8	
23	John 6:37-40	
24	Psalms 105:1-6	
25	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	
26	Psalms 138:1-3	
27	Hebrews 4:14-16	
28	Psalms 107:1-9	
29	Psalms 150:1-6	
30	Habakkuk 3:17-18	<p><i>Hymn 520 Lutheran Book of Worship</i></p>



## **WORSHIP TEAMS**

	Reader(s)	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Carol Prior</i>
<b>5th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion &amp; Terry East</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Bob &amp; Cheryl Gray</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>12th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Terry East &amp; Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Randy Engel &amp; Carol Prior</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
<b>19th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Laurie Floren &amp; Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Kim &amp; David Emerson</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>26th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Cheri Murrell &amp; Terry East</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Terry East</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Gary &amp; Carol Prior</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>

# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir	<b>2</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 am JOY 10:00 am WSL Story Telling Saturday
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 pm SLTA 4:00 pm SLTA	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 12:00 pm Craft Fair	<b>10</b> 8:00 am Craft Fair	<b>11</b> 8:00 am JOY 8:00 am Craft Fair
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 pm SLTA 4:00 pm SLTA	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg 7:00pm SLTA	<b>15</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Finding Solutions for Seniors 8:00 am JOY 10:00 am WSL Story Telling Saturday
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon 3:00 pm SLTA 4:00 pm SLTA	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>22</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School Congregational Meeting Oktoberfest 6:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	<b>29</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>30</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 12:00 pm Book club	<b>31</b>	

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5150 WILSON ST.**

**LA MESA, CA 91942**

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NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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EL CAJON, CA  
PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material  
October 2025

**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: First and third Wednesday of the month in the LL

**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.*