

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

November 2023
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 23 Issue 11

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

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Thanksgiving and Advent

November for US Americans finishes with the celebration of Thanksgiving. This year, Thanksgiving will be observed on 23 November. Celebrating harvest thanksgiving festivals obviously predates the US version featuring the Pilgrims, turkeys, pumpkin pies, department store parades, and football games. Little did the original pilgrims know that their thanksgiving would become the kick-off for the Christmas shopping season.

Almost immediately after Thanksgiving is observed, the new church year begins with Advent, which itself marks the beginning of the church liturgical year. That is why the altar guild schedule also begins in December 2023 and not in January 2024. Like Thanksgiving, however, Advent is often overshadowed by Christmas. Why might this be?

As the name entails, Thanksgiving means giving thanks. Even though people tend to feast until bursting, at Thanksgiving we don't really "get" anything like at Christmas. The same applies to Advent. Apart from getting the occasional Advent calendar, which nowadays seems to include not only chocolate, beer, or wine but also pet treats, Advent too does not leave us expecting to "get" anything. Christmas, however, is much different. From the earliest of ages, children are trained to expect to "get" presents, perhaps lots of presents, not only from Father Christmas but from all manner of relatives, etc. In comparison, Thanksgiving and Advent have nothing to "offer," so to speak.

Despite the expectation of an abundance of gifts, Christmas often comes with a catch. Whereas one expects presents to be free, in popular lore at Christmas they are not. To receive one's Christmas gifts one needs to be good! You know the old jingle,

“You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout”, Why? Because if you do, Santa will not be very generous at all. In fact, if one is naughty, the proverbial stick and piece of coal will fill one's stocking. Whereas such possibilities might have encouraged children to have behaved in the past, that is probably not the case today. Even today's atheists would probably consider withholding Christmas gifts as some form of child abuse.

The theologically interesting aspect of such Christmas expectations is their quid pro quo nature. One needs to be good in order to receive. Whereas this expectation hopes to get people to behave and whereas this expectation makes the receiving of gifts a reward, it also represents an understanding of “Christianity” which is just as pagan as so many other Christmas observances and traditions. The pagan element is that we have to do something to garner favor with god or the gods because if you do not, you had better watch out!

So, even if Christmas promises to be more lucrative than Thanksgiving and Advent, and obviously in many ways it is, such rewards are not gifts, which actually makes their existence contrary to Christmas itself. Whereas we traditionally think of Christmas as the celebration of Christ's incarnation, Christmas is actually a chief celebration of justification, which takes place as a gift; that is, by grace alone through faith alone.

So, what good are Thanksgiving and Advent. Contrary to conventional thought and chronology, Thanksgiving and Advent become important after Christmas. In other words, if it were not for Christmas and the gift of God's son to sinful humanity celebrated at that time, there would be no reason for Advent. Likewise, there also would be no reason at all to give thanks to the one, true God because we would still be lost in our sin, separated from that God forever.

So, as the holiday season approaches, let us prepare not to celebrate Thanksgiving as an isolated American holiday but rather as our daily disposition towards the God whose advent we celebrate

not only in advance of Christmas but every time we gather to celebrate his arrival when he presents himself to us whenever and wherever his gospel is purely proclaimed and his sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are rightly administered. - Pastor Mark

October Quarterly Congregational Meeting

At the 2023 October Quarterly Congregational meeting, St. Luke's undertook two very important items of business. First, the congregation passed a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year. Second, the congregation elected a new church council which reflects the addition of new members from Reformation Lutheran Church. Elected were Judi Cole (President), Bob Gray (Vice President), Kim Emerson (Secretary), Scott Brown (Treasurer), and Tania Salas (Parish Education). The new church council will be installed early in the new year.

Christmas Tree Decorating Party

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas tree decorating party which will take place on Friday, 08 December, at 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This annual event provides an opportunity for people you and old to prepare the sanctuary to celebrate Advent and Christmas.



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!

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Would you like to advertise your business?
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Make a difference this
 holiday season.

Donate for Holiday Gift Card
 "Baskets"

for those in need this Holiday
 Season.

Each November, money is collected to buy gifts cards for those families in need for groceries to use during the holidays

WORSHIP TEXT

November 5th

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson – Micah 3:5-12

Psalm 43

Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Gospel - Matthew 23:1-12

November 12th

24th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson – Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson – Zephaniah 1:7-16

Psalm 90:1-12

Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Last Sunday of the Church Year

First Lesson – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Gospel - Matthew 25:31-46



Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendars!

Adopt-A-Family—gift card/monetary donations collected through November 28th, please note “Adopt-A-Family” the memo line.

Bible Study: Wednesdays November 1st and 15th

Choir Practice—Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Wednesdays Service at 7 pm

Spanish Service on Sundays in the Family Center at 5:30 pm

Book Club meeting in the Library November 30th at 12 pm

Adopt a Family FOR CHRISTMAS

Women of St. Luke's (WSL)

St. Luke's woman will again collect gift cards for the Adopt A Family program at Crisis House. Crisis House located in El Cajon offers programs for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and homeless. The Adopt A Family program providing funds for Christmas gifts for family members,

Walmart gift cards only in amount of \$25 or \$50

WSL will convert any cash or checks given into gift cards. Make checks payable to WSL for Adopt a Family

All donations must be received by November 30th please. (Any donation received after that date will be forwarded to Crisis House for general usage.)

No record of giving for the Adopt A Family program will be kept by St. Luke's or WSL

LET'S GIVE A FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



Coffee Hour Hosts for November 2023

November 5th — Donna & Danna Towers

November 12th — Judy Kirk

November 19th — Karen Skullerud

November 26th — Volunteer needed

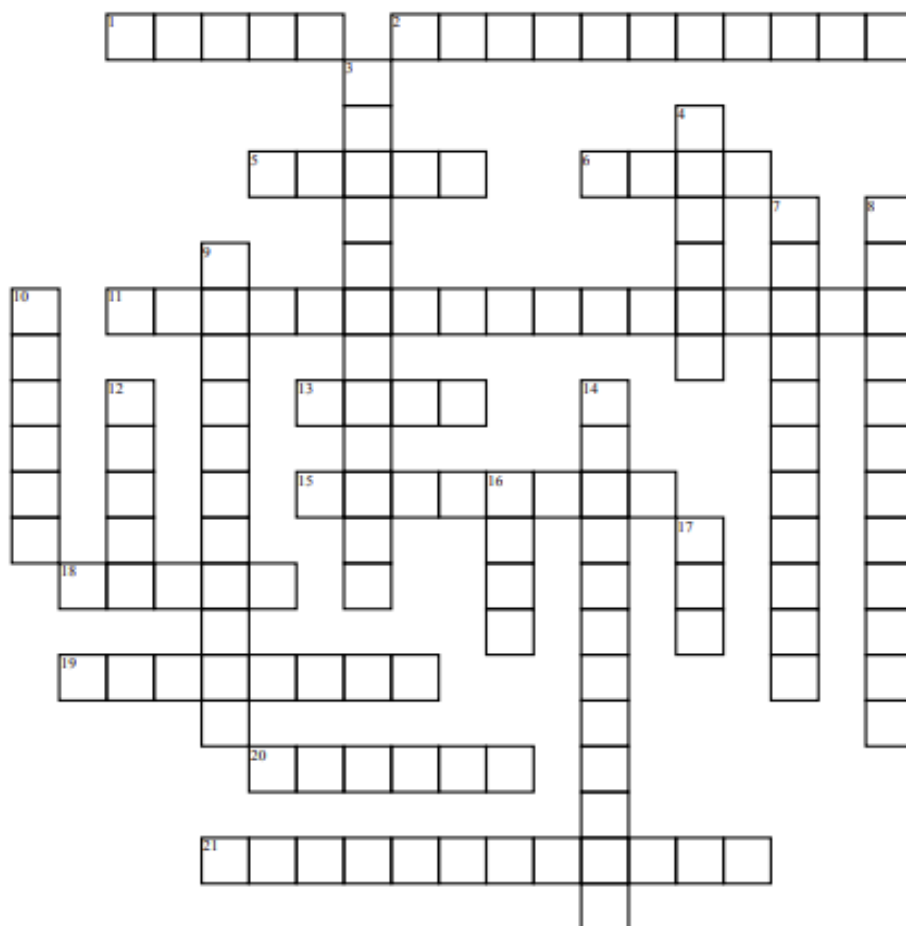
Make a difference this holiday season.

Donate for Holiday Gift Card “Baskets”

for those in need this Holiday Season.

Each November, money is collected to buy gifts cards for those families in need for groceries to use during the holidays

Advent Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. On Christmas we celebrate the birth of.....
2. The Advent wreath is a symbol of.....for the coming of Christ
5. Every human being is loved by god and has dignity and.....
6. Advent begins.....Sundays before December 25.
11.is a sequence of specific seasons and feasts that are celebrated in the liturgy during a year's time.

13. On Christmas, we receive gifts, a custom that may have started in remembrance of the...from the East who brought gifts to the infants Jesus.

15. What month does Advent begin in?
18. The color for Christmas is.....
19. Jesus is the.....
20. What season does the liturgical year begin in?
21. When is Jesus born?

Down

3. The vigil mass takes place on.....

4. The color of Advent is.....

7. On the...of December Jesus was born.

8. During the 4 weeks of Advent we prepare to celebrate the.....

9. Christmas is a time to..... with thankfulness in our hearts

10.is the father of Jesus

12. At Christmas we celebrate the great..... that each one of us is loved by God

14. The Christmas season begins with the.....

16.is the mother of Jesus.

17. The color of Christmas [white] is a symbol of.....

NOVEMBER WORSHIP TEXTS

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

— November 5, 2023

First Lesson — Micah 3:5-12

Psalm 43

Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Gospel — Matthew 23:1-12

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

— November 12, 2023

First Lesson — Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel — Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

— November 19, 2023

First Lesson — Zephaniah 1:7-16

Psalm 90:1-12

Second Lesson — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel — Matthew 25:14-30

Day of Thanksgiving

— November 23, 2023

First Lesson — 8:1-10

Psalm 67

Second Lesson — Philippians 4:6-20

Gospel — Matthew 17:11-19

Last Sunday of the Church Year

— November 26, 2023

First Lesson — Ezekiel 34:11-16, 34:20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Gospel — Matthew 25:31-46



Kathleen Yerger	November 2
George Hauk	November 3
Ken Murrell	November 4
Madilyn Lindstrom	November 18
Gleason Snashall	November 18
Chuck Halver	November 19
Jonathan Janos	November 22
JoAnn Hendrickson	November 27

Happy Anniversary

Joann & Jack Hendrickson,	November 8
Ken & Cher Murrell	November 17
Doris & Gleason Snashall	November 19
Kim & David Emerson	November 28

BEST
Wishes
TO YOU

November Prayer Calendar

“Be Still My Soul”

1	Psalm 37:1-8	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be Still my soul</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before the Lord,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God is always near</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before your mind</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Is moved to pray,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God listens and will hear</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>You need not</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Multiply your words</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nor pray with practiced art.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Beyond all speech,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God understands</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hunger of your heart.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wait then in</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Quiet confidence,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Your anxious thoughts at rest</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God knows your needs</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before you ask</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And works for what is best.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be still my soul,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before the Lord</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On God in patience wait.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God’s love unseen</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Surrounds your life,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God’s help will not be late.</i></p>
2	Matthew 11:25-30	
3	John 15:7-11	
4	John 6:35-40	
5	Luke 10:38—42	
6	Philippians 4:4-9	
7	Psalm 116:1-7	
8	Proverbs 3:5-8	
9	Ephesians 1:11-14	
10	Psalm 103:11-14	
11	Isaiah 43:1-3	
12	Galatians 6: 7-10	
13	Lamentations 3:17-26	
14	Hebrews 10:19-23	
15	Ephesians 2:4-8	
16	2 Thessalonians 1:11-12	
17	Psalm 37:1-7	
18	1 Peter 3:5-12	
19	1 Peter 1:1-9	
20	Titus 3:4-8	
21	Ephesians 3:14-21	
22	Psalm 40:1-3	
23	Hebrews 4:14-16	
24	Romans 5:1-5	
25	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	
26	1 Peter 5:6-11	
27	Psalm 46:1-11	
28	1 Thessalonians 5:14-24	
29	Colossians 1:9-14	
30	Philippians 4:4-7	

Hymn 771

NOVEMBER WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader(s) *Jennifer Killion*
Altar Guild *Terry East*

5th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Judi Cole & Cherri Murrell</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Pastor Mark</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Randy Engel</i>
12th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Cherri Murrell & Jillian Barnard</i> <i>Judy Kirk</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Emerson</i>
19th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Terry East & TBD</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Randy Engel</i>
26th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Cherri Murrell & Terry East</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Randy Engel</i>

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10-12 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	2 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA	3	4
5 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA	6	7 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA	8 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	9 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA	10	11
12 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA	13	14 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg 7:00pm SLTA	15 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	16 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA	17	18 1:30 Gidions Int'l @ 1:30
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA	20	21 8:00am Tai Ch	22 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 10:00am Bible Study
26 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA		28 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day	29 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	30 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA 12 pm Book Club	31	

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5150 WILSON ST.

LA MESA, CA 91942

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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 Communion Service: 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room
 - Bible Study: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
 - Office will be closed November 23rd & 24th

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.