

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

January 2024
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 24 Issue 1

Good Works? Good Grief!

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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In his last sermon given in Wittenberg on 17 January 1546, Luther preached on Romans 12:3. Below is an excerpt from the beginning of this sermon in which Luther reminds us that our faith, fighting against the powers of sin, needs to bring forth good works because these good works testify to the living reality of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Luther also explains why Christians, despite such faith, often find it difficult to exhibit those good works. Luther writes,

“For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him” (Rom. 12 [:3]).

“St. Paul, as was his custom, taught first the great chief articles of Christian doctrine—the law, sin, and faith, how we are to be justified before God and live eternally. As you have often heard and still hear every day, namely, that there are two points to be taught and preached: first we must see to it that faith in Christ is rightly preached, and second, that the fruits and good works are rightly taught and practiced.

“Faith requires that we know what sin is, what the law is, what death is, and what it does, and also how we return to life and abide in it. This is the way Paul teaches in all his epistles; first concerning faith in Christ. First he plants the good tree, just as anybody who wants to have a

happy new year

**January Quarterly
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, 28 January 2024**

**Office will be closed
1/1 & 1/15**

good garden must have good trees. This is what Paul does; first he sets out the wild trees [cf. Rom. 11:24] and teaches how we should become good trees, that is, how we are to believe and be saved.

“This he has been describing up to this point in the twelfth chapter. From here to the end of the epistle he teaches the fruits of faith, in order that we may not be false Christians, who have only the name of Christian, but rather real, true believers. This is the preaching concerning good works, which God commands, especially in the first and second table [i.e., of the Ten Commandments], that we, who have been redeemed through the blood and death of the Son of God, should live godly lives, as those who do not belong to this transitory life but rather to eternal life, provided that we rightly believe; in order that after believing we may not again follow the world, as Paul says in the preceding verse: “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind,” etc. from. 12:2]. Review therefore the good works, which are to be done, to the end of the Epistle. First he deals with the good fruits which the Christians bring forth among themselves as if there were no government except the government of the church through baptism, etc. Then in the thirteenth chapter he deals with worldly authority and the attitude of Christians toward it from. 13:3]. In the fourteenth chapter he admonishes the strong to receive the weak in faith from. 14:1].

“Here he is teaching concerning the works of Christians. Now, he is saying, now that we have been made rich through Christ the Lord, transferred from the dominion of the devil and the world to his kingdom [cf. Col. 1:13], that is, into the church of Christ; now that we have the Word and the sacraments, now that we have been baptized, now that we are sons and heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ the Son of God [cf. Rom.

8:17], who has given us eternal life, now it is necessary that we look to and really devote ourselves to the glorious calling and gifts.

“After baptism there still remains much of the old Adam. For, as we have often said, it is tame (true) ?? that sin is forgiven in baptism, but we are not yet altogether clean, as is shown in the parable of the Samaritan, who carried the man wounded by robbers to an inn [Luke 10:30–37]. He did not take care of him in such a way that he healed him at once, but rather bound up his wounds and poured on oil. The man who fell among robbers suffered two injuries. First, everything that he had was taken from him, he was robbed; and second, he was wounded, so that he was half-dead and would have died, if the Samaritan had not come to him. Adam fell among the robbers and implanted sin in us all. If Christ, the Samaritan, had not come, we should all have had to die. He it is who binds our wounds, carries us into the church and is now healing us. So we are now under the Physician’s care. The sin, it is true, is wholly forgiven, but it has not been wholly purged. If the Holy Spirit is not ruling men, they become corrupt again; but the Holy Spirit must cleanse the wounds daily. Therefore this life is a hospital; the sin has really been forgiven, but it has not yet been healed” (LW 51: ??).

Many Christmas Thank-Yous!

The Christmas season brings many festivities which involved many people. St. Luke’s wishes to thank a few people for their extra efforts during Christmas. We thank:

-Judi Cole for organizing the **Christmas Tree Decorating Party** held on 08 December. We also thank the nearly 30 members and friends who helped decorate the Christmas tree and who helped minimize

the amount of leftover food at the party.

-**Angie Hauk** for all her efforts baking and making so many different cookies and deserts for the **German Christmas Carol** service. We also thank the Murrels, Foremans, Carol Prior, Sheila Stubbs, and Janet Menacher for helping with setup or cleanup or both.

-**Sunny Menze, Reed Ganzer, and Kai Powell** for assuming responsibility for the readings during the German Christmas Carol service. Reed and Kai are in the German club at Poway High School.

-**Richard Deal**, St. Luke's Music Director, for leading the congregation in a moving **Christmas Eve Service**. We thank Martha Applegate for her vocal solo. We also thank the ensemble of Christmas musicians which included Mjæe Penaflor (Violin), Scott Brown (Percussion), Tavis Brown (Bass), Nick Caldwell (Flute), Clarence McDuffie III (Trumpet), and Carolyn Deal (Piano).



blessed ♡

Church Council Installation

Again, the following persons have been elected to St. Luke's Church Council: Judi Cole, President (three year term), Bob Gray, Vice-President (three year term), Kim Emerson, Secretary (three year term), Scott Brown, Treasurer (three year term), and Tania Salas, Parish Education (two year term). The church council again also wishes to thank and to honor outgoing Vice President, Tom Stubbs, for his years of service to St. Luke's. The new church council will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, 07 January, 2024.

St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA) - Winter Course Offering

Starting 09 and 21 January 2024, SLTA will be offering three, ten week courses. The modules are: 1) **The Lutheran Difference** (Tuesday, 09 January - 7:00-8:30 pm), 2) **Introduction to the Old Testament** (Sunday, 21 January - 3:00-4:30 pm), and 3) **Reformation Theology** (Sunday, 21 January - 4:00-5:30 pm). The course fee for each of the three modules is \$25.00. For more information and to register for one or more modules, please visit the Academy page on St. Luke's website.

Request for Consideration

To counter the smell of pastor's sermons, some folks as of late have been using extra perfume or aftershave. The church has been informed that unfortunately a member or two are particularly sensitive to or allergic to perfumes, which can make being in worship a bit trying for those so affected. In light thereof, ladies or men who use perfume or perhaps aftershave, respectively, are asked to do so sparingly. Thanks.



Blood Drive

Sunday, 28 January 2024

9:00—2:30 pm



Coffee Hour Hosts for January



7th — Pat Kettler & Shila Stubbs

14th — Laurie Floren

21st — Judy Iverson & Bonnie

28th — Volunteer needed



Women of St. Luke's (WSL)

We have set a new meeting date and time for 2024.

We look forward to new members joining us to help plan events and see what we are busy doing. Please join us for our first WSL Quarterly meeting will be held on January 11th at 9:00 AM in the Lower Level.

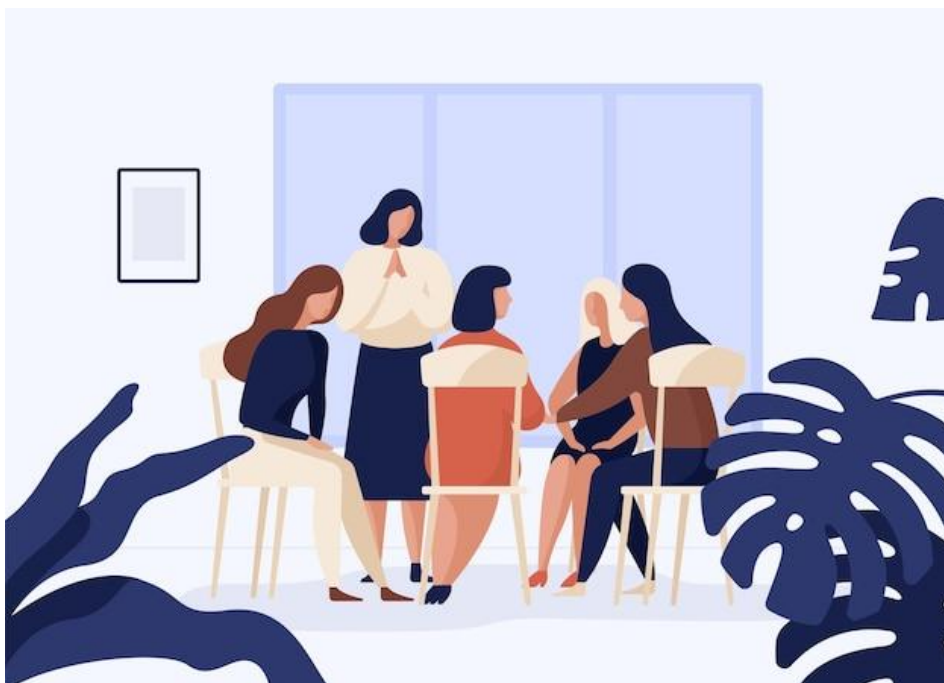
New and Repeating officers

Chairperson – Cheri Murrell

Secretary – Diane Foreman

Treasurer – Nancy Kearns

Project Ladies Reporter– Shirley Carrington



JANUARY WORSHIP TEXTS

7th— The Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson — Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Second Lesson — Romans 6:1-11

Gospel — Mark 1:4-11



14th - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson — 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-10

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel — John 1:43-51

Betty Wiedmer	01/14
Charlotte Utley	01/18
Bob Newak	01/19
Barrer Barrer	01/25
Angie Hauk	01/26
George Parcels	01/29
Colleen Olsen	01/29
Lori Ann Linn	01/30

21st—Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson — Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
(32-35)

Gospel — Mark 1:14-20

28th—Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson — Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel — Mark 1:21-28



JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

“Give Thanks!”

1	Colossians 2:1-7	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done In whom his world rejoices: Who, from our mothers' arms, Has blest us on our way. With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us, And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed And free us from all harm In this world and the next.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given, The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be ever more.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hymn 534 Verse 1, 2, 3 Lutheran Book of Worship</i></p>
2	Psalms 118:26-29	
3	Psalms 138:1-6	
4	Philippians 4:4-7	
5	Psalms 56:8-13	
6	I Peter 1:3-9	
7	Psalms 30:1-5	
8	Psalms 91:1-6	
9	Colossians 3:12-17	
10	Psalms 63:1-8	
11	Psalms 107:1-9	
12	I Thessalonians 5:16-24	
13	Psalms 86:10-13	
14	Psalms 34:1-9	
15	Colossians 1:9-14	
16	Psalms 100:1-5	
17	Psalms 118:21-29	
18	Ephesians 1:1-14	
19	Psalms 111:1-10	
20	Revelation 4:8-11	
21	Psalms 92:1-9	
22	Psalms 32:1-7	
23	Revelation 5:11-14	
24	Psalms 44:4-8	
25	Psalms 57:5-11	
26	Psalms 145:8-21	
27	Psalms 28:6-9	
28	Psalms 116:12-19	
29	Psalms 145:1-21	
30	Romans 8:31-39	
31	Revelation 15:3-4	

JANUARY WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader(s) *Randy Engel*
Altar Guild *JoAnn Hendrickson*

7th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Bob Urich</i> <i>Judi Cole & Mark Stanton</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Kim & David Emerson</i>
14th	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>Randy Engel</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> <i>Randy Engel</i>
21st	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Gleason Snashall</i> <i>Jillian Barnard & Laurie Floren</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Laurie Floren</i> <i>Shirley Carrington</i> <i>Kim & David Emerson</i>
28th	Communion Assistant —bread Communion Assistants—wine Greeter Prayers of the People Projectionist Usher Team	<i>Ted Olsen</i> <i>Nancy Kearns</i> <i>Randy Engel</i> <i>Dianne Foreman</i> <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> <i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2 8:00am Tai Chi	3 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	4 8:00am Tai Chi	5	6
7 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA	8	9 8:00am Tai Chi 10:00 Bible Study 7:00pm SLTA	10 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	11 8:00am Tai Chi	12	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	15 Office Closed	16 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day 10:00 Bible Study 6:00pm Council mtg	17 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	18 8:00am Tai Chi	19	20 1:30 Gideons Int'l
21 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA	22	23 8:00am Tai Ch 10:00 Bible Study	24 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	25 8:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Book Club	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 9:00am Blood Drive 10:30am Sunday School 4:00pm SLTA	29	30 8:00am Tai Chi 9:30am Project Day 10:00 Bible Study	31 10:00 WSL Bible Study 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service			

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dated Material
January 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
 - WSL Bible Study: 10:00 am Wednesdays
 - Book Club: 12:00 pm Thursday 1/25
 - Blood Drive: 9:00am- 2:30 pm Sunday, January 28th

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.