

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

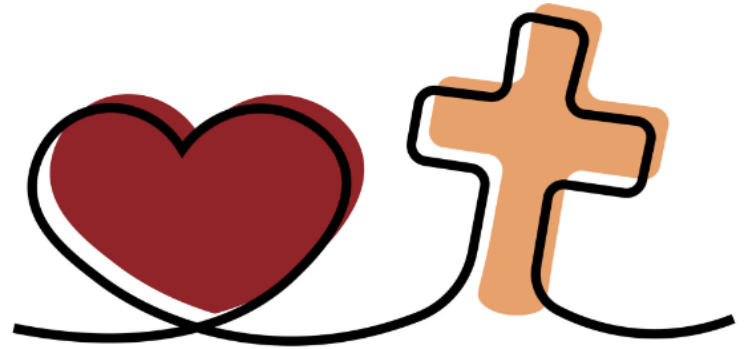
February 2024
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 24 Issue 2

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



Valentines and Ashes

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We Lutherans are perhaps among the few who recognize that Reformation Day, 31 October, is also Halloween. The two observances seem diametrically opposed, and in today's observances of these "holidays," that is probably true. In Luther's day, however, Halloween as All Hallows Eve, or in modern English, the Eve of All Saints Day, was the fitting time to publicize his 95 Theses against Indulgences.

Following the sequence in the church calendar, All Hallows Eve (31 October) precedes All Saints Day (01 November) which precedes All Souls Day (02 November). On All Saints Day, the church would remember the departed who when to heaven. On All Souls Day, the church would remember and pray for the departed who were in purgatory. So, All Saints Day and All Souls Day were two sides of the same coin, heads and tails respectively. So, when Luther publicized his 95 Theses on "All Hallows Eve" he was addressing the two events regarding the dead in one swoop, and for latter day Lutheran Luther's Theses are much more of a treat than a trick.

This year, 2024 for those who did not get a new calendar for Christmas, Ash Wednesday falls on 14 February which in popular culture many people

February 19th -
Office Closed



consider to be St. Valentine's Day, on which I am sure many unsaintly activities take place. Whereas popular culture celebrates Halloween with all manner of shades of evil and death, proper Protestants observe Reformation Day as God's victory over sin and the powers of death granted by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

Similarly, modern celebrations of Valentine's Day seem quite contrary to observances of Ash Wednesday. In a convoluted story, supposedly Priest or Bishop Valentine signed a note to a girl whose sight he had restored with "from your Valentine." In later popular culture, this gave rise to giving Valentine's Day cards, or just Valentines. Since the marketing mob took over the "holiday," the current celebrations of Valentine's Day have lost sight of that notion and bear no resemblance to a miraculous healing and a martyr's death.

Although Valentine's Day seems just about as far removed from its origins as Halloween is contrary to either its Roman Catholic or Protestant roots, a parallel between these supposedly opposing holidays does not actually exist. In the evolution of our "holidays" (originally holy days) most Lutherans have little or no idea that Luther himself had no time for Ash Wednesday. Listing 25 Lenten practices, Luther pillories Ash Wednesday. "All of these [are] beyond necessity, purely as a [supposedly] special service to God, which is contrary to faith: 1. Ash Wednesday" (LW 34:55). So, if for Luther Ash Wednesday is the number one thing "contrary to faith" during Lent why do we "Lutherans" observe it? This year, instead, would it not serve domestic bliss better to take one's spouse or sweetheart out for a nice meal rather than huddle together in a cold church and smear ashes on each other's foreheads?

Whereas one could argue, and many would, because Lent is a penitential season in the church liturgical year, it is fitting like old church tradition to start Lent with Ash Wednesday. For theologically minded Lutherans, however, such argumentation overlooks the first of

Luther's 95 Theses, which states, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance" (LW 31:25). So, if the whole life of a believer is one of repentance, then that would make not only Ash Wednesday but also Lent with its liturgical, penitential observances completely redundant. If one can pitch Ash Wednesday and Lent out the window, what goes next, Halloween and Valentine's Day? God forbid!

At stake here is not merely how one should or should not observe church holidays and the now secularized, former church holidays. Instead, the matter at hand concerns not only having a sound theological foundation for all church activities (or not), but also concerns how one can recognize the difference between the two. When the Lutheran reformers reorganized "the church," they did so with a key criterion in mind, namely the gospel of justification by faith alone as the doctrine by which the church stands or falls.

Consequently, the church and its practices did not and do not exist as some entity on or of their own. According to Article VII of the Augsburg Confession, the church "is the assembly of all believers in which the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel," and it "is enough for the true unity of the Christian churches that the gospel is hence preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the divine word." In other words, what does not preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ is not necessary for the church's existence or practices. In that light, Ash Wednesday is no better and no worse the Valentines Day.

So, where will you be spending the evening of 14 February 2024 and what theological criteria will you use to decide?

- Pastor Mark



Coffee Hour Hosts for December



February 4th — Pat Kettler

February 11th — Carol Prior

February 18th — Volunteer needed

February 25th — Volunteer needed

Valentine's Day

Word Search



K	S	Q	S	J	I	V	R	T	D	S	R	Q	G	K
R	Q	Q	T	D	M	A	B	X	U	F	N	Q	J	J
K	G	D	A	S	N	L	Y	E	U	S	F	S	N	S
S	V	E	E	M	B	E	R	I	G	C	E	V	O	L
Q	W	Q	R	Q	Q	N	I	A	W	R	A	O	C	G
T	Z	E	T	G	R	T	Z	R	E	Y	I	N	Q	T
D	Q	I	E	E	O	I	K	Z	F	D	R	E	D	J
H	O	B	N	T	P	N	W	N	O	E	F	T	G	Y
X	U	T	H	C	H	E	H	V	X	E	A	L	A	T
N	A	G	B	P	R	E	E	Y	B	M	T	C	B	H
F	O	M	G	T	U	S	A	R	L	R	K	U	T	Q
I	M	T	M	Q	S	K	U	R	A	U	N	P	E	H
C	A	R	D	S	K	A	A	E	T	W	I	I	G	U
M	C	D	I	R	R	M	H	H	X	E	P	D	P	N
W	Q	K	L	Y	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	J	O	J

CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
FEBRUARY
FLOWERS

TREATS
VALENTINE
SWEETHEART
RED
LOVE
KISS
PINK



WSL News:

On Thursday, January 11, six women attended the first quarterly meeting of the Women of St. Luke's (WSL) of 2024, led by Cheri Murrell as chairperson. Board member job duties for new officers were reviewed, along with the financial statement and distribution of income rules. The monies which WSL receives are not for WSL's own benefit but for community ministries. Future service opportunities and congregational involvement were thus topics of discussion.

Beginning in mid-February, all are invited to the congregational **Lenten Soup Suppers**, hosted by various groups at St. Luke's. WSL will host the Wednesday evening meal on February 21. If you'd like to bring a soup, bread, salad, or dessert to share, please let Pat Kettler know or add your name to the sign-up sheet in Lower Level. Thank you for participating!

On April 26, WSL will host a fun family event, a **BINGO and White Elephant Night**. No, you will not win an albino elephant! Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

"Project Ladies" is another arm of WSL, where projects like layettes for the Pregnancy Care Clinic are gathered, put together, and distributed. Large family-sized quilts are assembled and distributed through Lutheran World Relief. The Project Ladies also make prayer quilts for St. Luke's members, friends, and family. It would be wonderful to have new interested women join the Project Ladies on the second and fourth Tuesday morning of each month at 9:30! You don't even have to know how to sew!



One of WSL's other interests is sponsoring a **Bible Study** on campus. Currently, WSL is studying the book of Hebrews. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. New members are always welcome. Extra workbooks are available. You may just show up or you may let Karen Skullerud know that you want to join in.

The next **Applecart Craft Faire** is scheduled for February 20 – March 2, 2024. Volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets which are a significant course of income for WSL's charitable activities.

WSL's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at 9:00 am. At this meeting, WSL will choose which ministries to support from donations given to WSL since December 2023. WSL hopes to have more St. Luke's women join us. We want to hear your ideas, and we want to get to know one another better!



HAPPY 98th BIRTHDAY BETTY!



Dear Brothers and sisters of St. Luke's,

You may not be aware that I received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from you all at St. Luke's for my 98th birthday.

I feel very blessed to have such a caring church family. Thank you and God bless and keep you all safe and healthy.

Yours in Christ,
Betty Wiedmer



FEBRUARY WORSHIP TEXTS

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—

February 4th

First Lesson — Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11

Second Lesson — 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Gospel — Mark 1:29-39

The Transfiguration of Our Lord -

February 11th

First Lesson — 2 Kings 2:1-12

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 50:1-6

Second Lesson — 2 Corinthians 3:12-13

(14-18); 4:1-6

Gospel — Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday - February 14th

First Lesson — Joel 2:12-19

Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19)

Second Lesson — 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel — Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

— **February 18, 2024**

First Lesson — Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 25:1-10

Second Lesson — James 1:12-18

Gospel — Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent - February 25th

First Lesson — Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Second Lesson — Romans 5:1-11

Gospel — Mark 8:27-38



Rick Parkhurst	2/1
Michele Dipierro	2/3
Carol Bohnsack	2/7
Audrey Utley	2/8
Richard Utley	2/18
Stephanie Brown	2/19
Andrew Killion	2/20
Doris Snashall	2/23
Charlie Utley	2/25

**I'M ANOTHER
YEAR OLDER,
WISER AND
HAPPIER.
THANKFUL AND
BLESSED.**

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

“With All Prayer and Supplication”

1	Philippians 1:3-11	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hear us Father, when we pray, Though your son and in your spirit By your spirits word convey All that we through Christ inherit That as baptized heirs, We may truly pray.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>When we know not what to say And our wounded souls are pleading May your Spirit, night and day, Grown within us, interceding; By his sighs, too deep for words, We are heard.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jesus, advocate on high, Sacrificed on Calvary’s altar Trough your priestly blood we cry: Hear our prayers, though they may falter: Place them on your Father’s Throne as your own.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>By your Spirit now attend To our prayer and supplications As like incense they ascend To your heavenly habitations May their fragrance waft above, God of love.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lutheran Service Book Hymn 773</i></p>
2	Colossians 2:13	
3	Colossians 4:2-4	
4	I Thessalonians 5:16-25	
5	Psalms 69:13-18	
6	James 5:13-18	
7	Hebrews 4:11-16	
8	Romans 8:26-27	
9	I Peter 4:7-11	
10	Colossians 1:9-14	
11	Ephesians 3:13-21	
12	Psalms 119:33-40	
13	Philippians 4:6-9	
14	Matthew 26:38-41	
15	Ephesians 6:13-19	
16	Jude 20-25	
17	Palm 119:169-176	
18	Colossians 4:12-13	
19	Psalms 31:1-5	
20	John 15:7-17	
21	Philemon 3-6	
22	Matthew 5:43-48	
23	Hebrews 4:14-16	
24	James 1:1-5	
25	Psalms 121:1-8	
26	II Thessalonians 1:11-12	
27	I Timothy 2:1-4	
28	Psalms 5:1-3	
29	Ephesians 1:15-23	

FEBRUARY WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Colleen & Ted Olsen</i>
4th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Judi Cole</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
11th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Terry East</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Kim & Dave Emerson</i>
18th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Terry East</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Dianne Foreman</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
25th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ken Murrell</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Laurie Floren & Cheri Murrell</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Kim & Dave Emerson</i>

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00am Tai Chi 7:00pm SLTA 6:30pm Al-Anon	2	3 8:30am JOL—Fireside 7:30 am Finding Solutions for Seniors – LL
4 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA—OT 4:00pm SLTA—RH 6:00pm Al-Anon -LL	5 1:00pm Counters	6 8:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Bible Study	7 10:00 Hebrew Bible Study	8 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Al-Anon	9	10 8:30am JOL—Fireside 10:00am Gideons -LL
11 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA—OT 4:00pm SLTA—RH 6:00pm Al-Anon -LL	12 1:00pm Counters	13 8:00am Tai Chi 9:00am Project Day 10:00am Bible Study	14 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Service 8:00pm Choir	15 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Al-Anon	16	17 8:30am JOL—LL
18 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA—OT 4:00pm SLTA—RH 6:00pm Al-Anon -LL	19 Office Closed	20 8:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Counters	21 10:00 Hebrew Bible Study 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Service 8:00pm Choir	22 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm SLTA	23	24 8:30am JOL—LL
25 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA—OT 4:00pm SLTA—RH 6:00pm Al-Anon -LL	26 1:00pm Counters	27 8:00am Tai Chi 9:00am Project Day 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Bible Study	28 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Service 8:00pm Choir	29 8:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Bookclub 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm SLTA 4:00—7:00 Craft Fair		

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Email: office-sllc@att.net

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Dated Material
February 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
- Hebrew Bible Study: Tuesdays 2/6 and 2/20

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.