



Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

April 2024
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 24 Issue 4

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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The Lord's Supper - What Next?

In his sermon from 1526 entitled "The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ - Against the Fanatics," Martin Luther first addresses the two main theological inadequacies of some of his fellow Reformers's understanding of the Lord's Supper. Then in Part II, he talks about our experience of the Lord's Supper and what to do thereafter. This may be a little surprising to some. See if you can spot his expectation.

"This is what I have taught: that one should not use the sacrament as a good work. They [the Roman Church] believed that whoever had confessed properly and knew of no mortal sin upon his conscience and so went to the sacrament was doing a precious, holy work, through which he merited heaven. If you wish to make the right use of it, you must not receive it in such a way that you say: "This I have done," just as if you had fasted or kept watch. But you ought to believe, not only that Christ is present with his body and blood, but also that he is given to you. You should always stand upon the words: "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Drink, this is my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In these words his body and blood are given to us. So there are two things to be believed: that it is truly present, which the papists also believe; and that it is given to us, which they do not believe, and that we should use it as a gift.

"There you hear it, expressed in clear



German: he commands you to take his body and blood. Why? For what reason? Because the body is given for you and the blood is poured out for you. Here they [the fanatical reformers] have great anguish to inflict upon us, these new preachers of ours, in that they deprive us of this also, and in so cruel a manner that I believe the devil is trying his utmost and that the day of judgment is not far off. I should rather be dead than hear Christ so scorned and abused by them. They say that it is only a sign, by which one may recognize Christians and judge them, so that we have nothing more of it than the mere shell. So they come together, and eat and drink, in order that they may commemorate his death. All the power is said to be in this commemoration, the bread and wine are no more than a sign and a color by which one may recognize that we are Christians. Why do they do this? Because they cast to the winds the words: "Eat, this is my body, which is given for you." The words mean nothing to them; they rumble by over their heads. They are supposed to mean nothing more than the proclaiming and preaching of his death. To be sure, one should proclaim his death, and we have also preached it in grander fashion than they ever did. And if they did not have it from us, they would know nothing of it, because the papists have never spoken of it at all. Therefore, the fanatics have no right to teach this to us and make great boasts about it, as if they had invented something new...

"Thus Christ has ordained that when we come together each one shall take of the bread and the cup, and afterwards preach of him. Why? For we are to give this to no one except those who are Christians and who have heard Christ preached beforehand. But the preaching or proclamation is intended for everyone in general, even for those who are not yet Christians. The Christians alone are

to partake of the sacrament, but at the same time they are to take thought that their number may increase.

"Therefore one should shout it out publicly and hold such public commemoration, that even those who do not yet know of it will attend. That they hold such commemoration privately is worthless. It should take place publicly before the congregation, and there should be preaching at the mass at all times. Therefore the words: "Do this in remembrance of me" are as much as to say: "As often as you do this, preach of me," as Paul interprets it in I Cor. 11[:26], when he calls it "proclaiming the death of Christ." He uses the word, "proclaim," in order to show that it is not to be done privately, only among Christians who know of it beforehand and who stand in need, not of proclamation, but only of admonition. Rather it is to be done publicly before the multitude, for those who do not know of it. Thus both "remembrance" and "proclamation" mean nothing else than the preaching of him publicly, as is done in all sermons.

"This, I say, we should always do when we receive the sacrament. Those who go to the sacrament, however, should believe and be assured, not only that they are receiving the true body and blood of Christ in it, but also that it is there given to them and is their own. Why? Not as a work for the sake of money or merit, as the monks and priests hold mass, but for the forgiveness of our sins. Now we surely know what forgiveness of sins means. When he forgives, he forgives everything completely and leaves nothing unforgiven. When I am free of sin, I am also free of death, devil, and hell; I am a son of God, a lord of heaven and earth...

"For this reason Christ has given himself to us completely, and wishes to be and

remain with us until the day of judgment [Matt. 28:20]; not merely that he may be present, as the papists have him and carry him about to no avail, nor as the others say, ut signum, that is, as a mere sign, which would bring us neither improvement nor benefits. Should Christ institute so great a thing in vain, without any use or profit? No, this is the benefit that you ought to derive: that you strengthen your faith and make your conscience secure, so that afterwards you may also be able to preach. So they say that it is merely a useless commemoration, which can be of no advantage to you or to anyone else. Be on guard! May God continue to preserve us as he has done until now. The devil has nothing to do anywhere except to come and besmirch the place where the gospel has taken root. Therefore we must build firmly on these words and stand fast in them, and thus we will be able to give a proper answer to the heretics. For these words are expressed in clear enough German. In substance they say this: first, that here we obtain forgiveness of sins as a gift, and second, that we afterwards preach and proclaim the same" (LW 36:347-351).

Did you notice Luther's expectation? If you knew that after taking the Lord's Supper all of us are expected to preach and proclaim to others what God has done for us in the supper, how often would you think twice about communing? On the other hand, knowing what Christ has done for us in his body and blood, how can we not tell others of this great gift of the forgiveness of sins granted to us by Christ himself present in his supper?

He is Risen!

We wish to thank all those who participated in this year's Lenten soup suppers and services. The variety of soup meals on Wednesday evenings was delightful. The services were well attended. We especially thank Richard Deal and Ken Murrell for their special music selections during the course of the Lenten services.

Holy Week was celebrated at St. Luke's with services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. During each of the three services, the choir performed selections from John Purifoy's "Out of the Shadows" Easter cantata. We again thank Richard Deal for recruiting and directing the choir and the special musicians for all three services. This year's special musicians included: Sandy Adams (clarinet), Scott Brown (percussion), Tori Hauk (flute), and Mjae Peneflor (violin). We also thank Tavis Brown for writing musical arrangements for the special musicians. Finally, we thank Judy Kirk and Laurie Floren for adorning the cross with a glorious array of flowers. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



St. Luke's Supporting Pastors in India

The annual Telugu Pastors Symposium met January 9-11, 2024 at the Hosanna Mandir campus in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. There were 325 pastors who pre-registered and 400 pastors who attended. The theme for this year symposium was a response to the prosperity gospel. The Bible studies focused on what Scripture teaches about prosperity. Notably, most prosperity gospel preachers seem to have little to say about contentment. So, the symposium stressed the Apostle Paul's words, "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Tim. 6:6).

St. Luke's has help support this symposium for several years. Last year, Pastor Mark was supposed to be one of the presenters, but he did not receive a visa. St. Luke's thanks Pastor Dr. Michael Albrecht for his continued dedication to serving the educational needs of Lutheran pastors in India.



Missionary Sunday

As many are aware, St. Luke's has been helping to support Pastor Andrew Fedder and his family as he serves as a Lutheran missionary to eastern Europe. Prior to becoming a foreign missionary, Pastor Fedder was the pastor of First Lutheran Church in El Cajon (English District). While at First Lutheran, Pastor Fedder was also kind enough to teach the Reformation Theology module at St. Luke's Theological Academy.

Pastor Fedder will be in the area in April, and he is prepared to share some of his experiences as a missionary with St. Luke's. In light thereof, the church council has designed Sunday, 14 April, as "Missionary Sunday." After services on that day, the coffee hour/Sunday school time will be given to Pastor Fedder to apprise the congregation of his many important activities and of the successes and trials faced as a missionary today. The congregation will also provide extra special refreshments on the day. So, please mark your calendars to attend this very special event.



Easter Egg Hunt

We wish to thank Tania Salas for overseeing and also wish to thank many others for supplying all the items for this year's Easter Egg Hunt held on 30 March (not 30 April!). The generous contributions of eggs, candy, Bible verses, etc., greatly assisted those who stuffed the eggs for the happy egg hunters to find. We also thank those who procured and prepared the food for the Egg Hunters Lunch to nourish the hungry egg hunters.



to



Coffee Hour Hosts for April

April 7th — Joel & Rachel Wohlfeil

April 14th — Volunteer needed

April 21st — Gary & Carol Prior

April 28th — Volunteer needed



White Elephant Bingo

The elephants are getting closer and are scheduled to arrive at St. Luke's on Friday, April 26 at 6:30 pm! Of course, they will be looking to participate in the White Elephant Bingo Night. (Curiously, Pastor Mark thinks that the elephants are blue and says that their names are Horatio, Humphrey, and Harold.)

On the festive evening, a light dinner will be served from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. A donation of \$5 per adult is requested to cover the meal costs and to bribe our professional bingo caller (aka Pastor Mark). In order for there to be sufficient food available, please sign up on the Bingo RSVP sheets in the Lower Level. If donating a dish, a salad or dessert serving at least 10 people will count as TWO dish donations.

To participate, each adult must bring a White Elephant* (except for Pastor who may bring a blue one). Since men will be attending, please consider bringing a man thing as your entry "ticket" (a wife does not count). Also, as there may also be children participating, please consider adding a "child thing" to your "ticket." So, pack your trunks, shell out for peanuts, leave the farmer's dog at home, and have a ball at the White Elephant Bingo.

*A "White Elephant" is an item in good condition to be donated as a prize. A "Blue Elephant" is a magical creature which only Pastor seems able to see and hear.

APRIL WORSHIP TEXTS



Second Sunday of Easter

— April 7, 2024

First Lesson — Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 148

Second Lesson — 1 John 1:1-2:2

Gospel — John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter

— April 14, 2024

First Lesson — Acts 3:11-21

Psalm 4

Second Lesson — 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel — Luke 24:36-49

Fourth Sunday of Easter

— April 21, 2024

First Lesson — Acts 4:1-12

Psalm 23

Second Lesson — 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel — John 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter — April 28,

2024

First Lesson — Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 150

Second Lesson — 1 John 4:1-11 (12-21)

Gospel — John 15:1-8

- Whitney Utley 4/3
- Thelma Pace 4/7
- Dawn Dolan 4/12
- Bonnie Halverson 4/13
- Lyn Allen 4/18
- Cleora Newbery
- Gary Coleman 4/21
- Lois Alfeld 4/23
- Nancy Parkhurst 4/25
- Deborah Haynes 4/30

Happy Anniversary

Mel & Judy Horning

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

“The Lord, Our Help”

1	Isaiah 41:10-13	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame, From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 73.33 Versus 1, 2, 3 & 6</i></p>
2	Psalm 121:1-8	
3	Hebrews 2:14-18	
4	Psalm 107:1-9	
5	Matthew 7:7-11	
6	Colossians 1:11-14	
7	Hebrews 12:1-2	
8	Psalm 25:8-10	
9	Philippians 4:4-7	
10	Romans 8:26-27	
11	Psalm 40:1-5	
12	Psalm 40:1-5	
13	Romans 8:31-37	
14	Isaiah 40:27-31	
15	Psalm 37:39-40	
16	Hebrews 4:14-16	
17	Psalm 62:5-8	
18	Ephesians 2:4-9	
19	Philippians 4:10-13	
20	Psalm 118:1-6	
21	Psalm 54:1-7	
22	Matthew 11:27-30	
23	Psalm 30:1-5	
24	Isaiah 43:1-30	
25	Psalm 30:1-5	
26	Psalm 145:14-21	
27	2 Corinthians 12:9-10	
28	Psalm 143:9-12	
29	Matthew 12:18-21	
30	Psalm 103:1-22	
31		

APRIL WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader(s) *Laurie Floren*
Altar Guild *Terry East*

7th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Terry East & Gleason Snashall</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Cheryl & Bob Gray</i>
14th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Ken Murrell</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel & Cheri Murrell</i>
21st	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Mark Stanton & Gleason Snashall</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>David & Kim Emerson</i>
28th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Laurie Floren</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Priors</i>

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6 - 8:45 pm AA	2 6:30- 8 pm Special Olympics	3 10:00 WSL Bible Study 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	4 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al- Anon	5	6 9:00 am AA
7 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA 4:00pm SLTA 6:00 pm Al-Anon	8 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6 - 8:45 pm AA	9 8:00am Tai Chi 10:00 am Project Ladies 6:00pm Council mtg 6:30- 8 pm Special	10 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	11 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al- Anon	12	13 9:00 am AA
14 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm SLTA 4:00pm SLTA 6:00 pm Al-Anon	15 1:30 pm Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6 - 8:45 pm AA	16 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30- 8 pm Special Olympics	17 10:00 WSL Bible Study 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	18 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al- Anon	19	20 9:00 am AA 1:30 Gideons Int'l
21 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon	22 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al- Anon 6 - 8:45 pm AA	23 8:00am Tai Ch 10:00 am Project Ladies 6:30- 8 pm Special Olympics	24 11:00 Staff 5:30 Choir 7:00 Service	25 8:00am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Al- Anon	26 12:00 pm -WSL White Elephant Bingo	27 9:00 am AA 7:30-4:30 pm Finding Solutions for Seniors
28 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:00 pm Al-Anon	29 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6 - 8:45 pm AA	30 8:00am Tai Chi 6:30- 8 pm Special Olympics				

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Dated Material
April 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
 - Friday 4/26 WSL White Elephant Bingo

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.