

Parish Rebuilder

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 5150 WILSON ST. LA MESA, CA 91942
www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

May 2023
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 23 Issue 5

We invite you to join St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Please contact Amy in the office to discuss membership or to arrange an appointment with Pastor Mark:

619-463-6633 or office-sllc@att.net

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The Problem of Sin

In our ever increasingly secularized world, many things once considered not just tabu but contrary to nature or even to common sense have either been decriminalized or made legal. It is hard not to interpret some of this not only as a misguided desire for personal freedom but also as a challenge, if not an attack, on the Judeo-Christian heritage upon which much of the developed world was founded. Such an attack is directly or indirectly an attack on God, which is what the cross of Christ makes manifest.

Theologically, this phenomenon represents the conflict between human sin and the God-given law or laws designed to curb or to thwart at least the manifestation of human sin. Consequently, those seeking such "freedom" necessarily seek to banish the law or laws which label certain activities as "wrong" thus as "sinful," even if only by implication.

Behind this, consciously or unconsciously, is the desire to rid the world of God from whom laws are ultimately derived through the various political mechanisms in any given time and place. Such governance is what Lutherans call the kingdom of God's left hand, or the kingdom on the left, in contrast to the kingdom of the gospel of God's right hand. Luther says that "stewing and brewing" these two kingdoms together is the devil's work (WA 51:239, 22-30 = LW 13:194-195).

In the culture wars today, particularly in church circles, as a consequence of such "mixing" there seems to be a widespread attempt to justify sin in all manner of ways. One often hears assertions like, "Persons X, Y, or Z are made in the image of God, and God don't make junk," or something to that effect. The implication is that whatever Person X, Y,

or Z wants to do, especially if it contravenes scripture, is somehow granted divine prerogative because people are made in his image.

Unfortunately, such notions are not merely theologically misguided. Instead, they point to the insidious nature of the problem of sin, namely that we sinners are unable to grasp the very nature of our sin. We sinners are blind to our sin, and when it manifests itself, like Adam and Eve, we seek to shift the blame, i.e. “the problem is not that I am wrong but that these laws and rules say so.” So, the laws and rules must go, and so time and again they are legislated or adjudicated out of existence, as if to say, “There, you mean and nasty God, take that!”

The nature of sin and the perception(s) thereof, however, are not simply a political problem between “conservatives” and “liberals.” Whether one sins conservatively or liberally is moot. Luther advised sinning boldly! Unfortunately, the confusion and blindness regarding our sin has plagued the Judeo-Christian ethos since shortly after “in the beginning” (Genesis 1:1), and is stems from a misinterpretation of Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness/similitude.’” Although Adam and Eve were created such, that was not enough for them. Goaded on by the serpent, they also wanted to be “like God” (Genesis 3:5). In other words, they did not want to be God’s creatures. Instead, they wanted to be like the creator.

This dynamic of confusing the creator with the creature crept readily into the church’s understanding of sin itself. For example, in the Roman church one taught and teaches that when Adam and Eve “fell,” the likeness/similitude of God was lost but that the image of God was retained. With the image of God largely in tact, the church took it upon itself to make sinners “like God” (similitude). This led to all manner of schemes for “works righteousness” by which sinners could restore their lost likeness and thus be saved. Wittingly or not, the secular world does the same by seeking to eradicate all semblances of a god which would accuse it of being wrong or “sinful,” and putting itself in God’s stead.

In contrast, through his insightful study of scripture Luther failed to be fooled by humanity’s sinful self-assessment of its sinful selfish nature. As Luther writes in his lectures on Genesis, “If man, created in this perfect image and similitude of God, had not fallen, he would have lived forever, happy and full of joy, and he would have had a will that was glad and ready to obey God. But through sin both the similitude and the image were lost. Nevertheless, as Paul says (Eph. 4:23), they are renewed to some extent through faith. For we are beginning to know God, and the Spirit of Christ helps us to be eager to obey God’s commands” (LW 1:338).

For Protestants in general, and Lutherans in particular, when Adam and Eve “fell” both the image and likeness of God were destroyed. There was nothing left to which sinful human beings could point or appeal by which they could claim to have some rightness or righteousness of their own by which they could justify their fallen existence and activities. Whereas it is true that Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God, the rest of humanity is born in sin. Furthermore, as we confess, we are by nature sinful and unclean, in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves, and that means that we sinners can never appeal to being “made in the image of God” to excuse or justify our sin “in thought, word, and deed.”

The good news (gospel) is that God did not leave us lost in our sin. As St. Paul writes to the church in Rome, “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of

the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:21-26 - ESV).

This is why Lutherans claim that the doctrine of justification by faith alone is the doctrine by which the church stands or falls.

Many Thanks

The Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday at St. Luke's were particularly meaningful this year. We wish to thank all those who prepared food for the midweek Lenten soup suppers, and particularly those who helped set up and clean up. Reports of the midweek services have been very favourable. We wish to thank Richard Deal and Ken Murrell for their contributions at these services. We wish to thank Doris Snashall for procuring the palm fronds for our lovely palm arch on Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were contemplative and moving. We wish to thank all those who read the lessons on those two days. We thank Tania Salas and helpers for the egg-citing Easter Egg hunt and lunch which were enjoyed by many children and adults. Easter Sunday was celebrated in fine fashion. We wish to thank Tavis Brown for organizing a flutist and trumpeter to accompany the music during the service. We also thank the Brown family and helpers for organizing the Easter Brunch. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Mark



Welcome New Members

Dianne Durrenberger

Mel & Judy Horning

Dan & Jody Iverson

Carol Wilcox

Dear Members of St. Luke's,

I want to express not only my gratitude but my heartfelt sadness that after 9 years of working on this campus, that I am leaving. Working for the members of St. Luke's has been a true blessing that has brought many friendships and joy to mine and my family's lives. Over the years I truly have felt the Christian love and fellowship from all of you. I have learned so much about the Lutheran faith, although I was raised in it I still probably only know an eighth of the true meaning of being a Lutheran.

I will very much miss preparing for Advent, the Lenten season, VBS and all the events in between. I will miss Eugenio Cruz and his ladder antics, working with him on facility projects and his sister's tamales that he so graciously brought to share a few times a year just to name a few. I will miss Pastor Mark and his ability to make a pun out of almost anything but mostly his ability to guide the ship. As for the members, each of you holds a small part in my heart and mind.

If you ever find yourself in Tucson and in need of a tour guide, please reach out.

Amy Hoffman

Hello Members & Friends of St. Luke's,

I am Debbie Deal the new Office/ Campus Manager taking over for Amy. My husband is Richard Deal the Music Director, and we have been married for 27 years. We have an adult daughter, Carolyn. We moved to San Diego from the Chicago area 10 years ago.

I have worked at Shadow Mountain Community Church for the last nine years, first as the Administrative Assistant in the Preschool and then in Children's Ministry. I sang in the choir and was a Bible Study table leader.

A little bit about me ... I enjoying singing, reading, cooking (not so much baking), and travel. My bucket list includes traveling to the United Kingdom and Italy especially Tuscany.

I look forward to serving you at St. Luke's.



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Women of St. Luke's Committee

SLLC Women's Group last met on March 11th. Our next meeting will be June 10th at 10:00 AM, location to be announced (Lower Level or Church Library). We meet quarterly and hope to see all St. Luke's & Reformation women (and any men who wish to get active!).

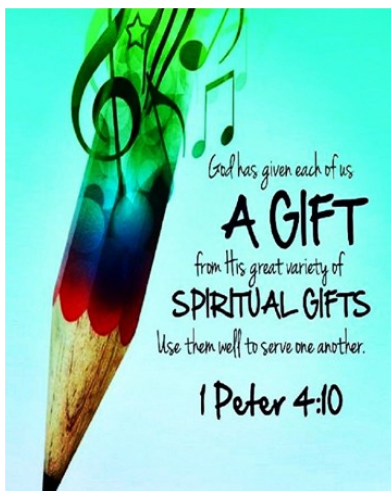
It will be time to start looking forward to our next **Craft Show** in the summer and begin making some plans for that. The Craft Show is one of WSL's few earning opportunities to help our own charities, so it is important that we get all our members out to assist. The **Craft Show Basket Ticket Sales** made WSL \$610.00 for our charitable contributions last fall. The next Craft Show is coming June 22-24, 2023, and future shows will be in ReBuilder.

Keep an ear open for the SLLC **White Elephant Bingo**, which should be here in a few months. This will be a "true potluck" Angie Hauk says, along with the White Elephant donations that each individual will bring as a "ticket" to enter and used for prizes! It's a LOT of FUN!! Keep watching!

At our Quarterly Summer June WSL meeting, we will discuss how and where our charitable funds will be disbursed. You will not want to miss this meeting!! Reminder: Saturday, June 10th, 10:00 AM.

Respectfully,

Karen Skullerud



Music Notes

by Richard Deal

Many musicians contributed to the glorious music experienced on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. My heartfelt thanks goes to each one who ministered through music.

Palm Sunday the choir sang "Let the King Come In" Maundy Thursday Cal Borchardt played the guitar and sang "Were You There", and Ken Murrell played the guitar and sang a song he wrote.

Good Friday the choir sang "The Power of the Cross", and Ken Murrell and Dave Emerson sang a song written by Ken.

Easter Sunday the choir sang 2 songs "Celebrate the Risen Lord" and "Run with Me to the Garden." Scott Brown played the tympani, Nick Caldwell played the Flute, and Clarence McDuffie played the trumpet.

Our new sound technician is Tavis Brown.

Choir Practice is Wednesday from 5:30-6:45 pm.

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salva-
tion!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!"

Psalm 95:1-2 (ESV)

WORSHIP TEXT

May 7 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson — Acts 6: 1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Psalm 146

Second Lesson — 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Gospel — John 14: 1-14

May 14 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson — Acts 17:16-31

Psalm 66:8-20

Second Lesson — 1 Peter:13-22

Gospel Lesson — John 14:15-21

May 21 — The Ascension of our Lord

First Lesson — Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Second Lesson — Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel — Luke 24:44-53

May 28 — The Day of Pentecost

First Lesson — Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 25:1-15

Second Lesson — Acts 2:1-21

Gospel — John 7:37-39



Shirley Carrington - May 7

Randy Engel - May 15

Terry East - May 17

Ryan Yerger - May 19

Janice Urich—May 30



Denise & Mark Stephens

May 30th



Randy Engel
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Make sure you tell them you heard about them from St. Luke's Newsletter!

Our monthly newsletter is printed free because of generous people/companies that advertise.

Let these generous people know that we appreciate them.

MAY PRAYER CALENDAR

Give Praise and Thanksgiving!

1	Psalm 136: 1-26	<p>1 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.</p> <p>2 Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world in the next.</p> <p>3 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 heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.</p> <p>Lutheran Book of Worship Hymn 895 Vs. 1-3</p>
2	Psalm 100:1-5	
3	1 Corinthians 15:50-57	
4	Jonah 2:1-9	
5	1 Chronicles 16:8-13	
6	Psalm 147:1-11	
7	Psalm 107:1-22	
8	Philippians 4:4-9	
9	Psalm 69: 29-36	
10	Colossians 3:12-17	
11	Psalm 118:15-29	
12	Psalm 33:1-12	
13	Colossians 1:3-14	
14	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	
15	Psalm 121:1-8	
16	Psalm 9:1-4	
17	Psalm 145:1-21	
18	Ephesians 1:3-10	
19	Psalm 8:1-9	
20	2 Corinthians 9:10-15	
21	Psalm 98:1-9	
22	1 Peter 1:3-9	
23	Ephesians 5:15-21	
24	Psalm 105:1-7	
25	Psalm 28:6-9	
26	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	
27	Psalm 31:1-5	
28	1 Timothy 4:1-5	
29	Psalm 16:6-11	
30	Revelation 7:9-12	
31	Psalm 150:1-6	

MAY WORSHIP TEAMS

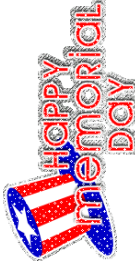
Reader—

Altar Guild— C. Olsen

7th	Communion Assistants: wine	<i>Ted Olsen & Terry East</i>
	Communion Assistant: bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>G. Bruflat & Jet Bruflat</i>
	Greeter	<i>Bob Gray</i>
14th	Communion Assistants: wine	<i>Terry East & Cheri Murrell</i>
	Communion Assistant: bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob Gray</i>
21st	Communion Assistants: wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Dianne Durrenberger</i>
	Communion Assistant: bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Projectionist	<i>TBD</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>
	Acolytes	<i>G. Bruflat & Jet Bruflat</i>
28th	Communion Assistants: wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Communion Assistant: bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>George Hauk</i>



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 am Counters	2 8:00 am Tai Chi	3 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Service	4 8:00 am Tai Chi	5	6
7 9:00 am 10:30 am Worship Sunday School	8 1:30 pm Counters	9 8:00 am 9:00 am—Project Day Tai Chi	10 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Service	11 8:00 am Tai Chi	12	13
14 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> 9:00 am 10:30 am Worship Sunday School	15 9:30 am Counters	16 8:00 am Tai Chi	17 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Service	18 8:00 am Tai Chi	19	20
21 9:00 am 10:30 am Worship Sunday School	22 1:30 pm Counters	23 8:00 am 9:00 am Project Day Tai Chi	24 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Service	25 8:00 am Tai Chi	26	27
28 9:00 am 10:30 am Worship Sunday School	29 Office Closed 	30 8:00 am 9:30 am Tai Chi Counters	31 5:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Service			

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May 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**
- Worship Services: Wednesdays 7:00pm and Sundays, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.
 - Tai Chi—Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 am.
 - Choir Practice: Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Fireside Room.
 - May 14th—Happy Mother's Day!
 - May 9th & 24th—Project Day Ladies at 9:00am.
 - May 28th—Pentecost Sunday—Wear RED
 - May 29th—Happy Memorial Day the office is closed.

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
soli deo gloria.