

# Parish Rebuilder

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

[www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org)

May 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 5

**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](mailto:office-sllc@att.net)

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## *In Adam All Die?*

Expounding on the resurrection as portrayed by St. Paul in I Corinthians 15, Luther addresses the notion of sin, death, and life. St. Paul writes, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:22). In relation to human reason, Luther offers an explanation of this verse which seems as relevant today as then:

"It is a ridiculous message that St. Paul conveys here, telling us where both death and eternal life originate. To clever reason and worldly wisdom it seems to be a great and strong lie that the entire human race must die for the guilt of another, of one single man. It seems too unfair and too absurd that God should treat this matter so strangely and take this silly position in His judgment. Because Adam bit into an apple, he is supposed to have effected that all men are doomed to die to the end of the world. But what is to be our position in this matter? That death befalls us we can all see clearly. But that this is due to one minor sin sounds too odd. When we explain this with words and compare the two, this does appear disproportionate.

"For at the time Adam had, after all, not committed murder or adultery, he had not stolen or robbed anyone, he had not blasphemed God or committed any similar sins, wicked and horrible sins such as abound in the world today. All he did was to bite into an apple, persuaded to do this and deceived by the devil through his wife. Reason asks whether so much importance had to be attached to that one apple that the whole world had to pay for it and that so many fine, excellent, and wise people, indeed, God's Son Himself, together with all the prophets,

fathers, and saints, had to die. Yes, if nothing more than death were involved here, as the world and wise people say, who console themselves over against death with the assumption that it ends all misfortune! If some better fate should await them after death, as they hope, they are willing to accept it too. Still they cannot conclude that with any degree of certainty; and of the resurrection they know nothing whatsoever. But the thought that we all deserve eternal punishment and damnation and suffering in hell because of the sin of someone else, and all of that by reason of just one sin—that is still harder for the human heart to accept. For this judgment on the part of such an exalted Majesty, which is the highest Wisdom and Goodness, seems too unfair, and the action too merciless.

“As we have said, we must all profess that it seems so ridiculous that we all must die; however, that this derives from Adam we must learn to believe here. For no human heart or wisdom ever devised or thought this out, that death is a penalty for sin. No, everybody thought and regarded death as man’s natural lot, comparable to the death of a dog or a pig or any other animal, or comparable to the rising and the setting of the sun, or the growing or the withering of grass. All things are considered perishable by nature, vanishing again as they came. However, Scripture teaches us that our death and dying does not come in a natural way but that this is a fruit of and the penalty for our father Adam’s sin. He offended the Sublime Majesty so outrageously that he and all who are descended from him and are born on earth must die eternally. No one on earth can escape or ward off this calamity.

“And again it sounds so absurd and so false to the world, yes, much more incredible, when Paul declares here that in one Man all men shall rise again; that both death and life rest with and depend on one man; that the whole world is

unable to do anything in this matter; that no man’s power or might, no saint’s life, virtue, and work, are adequate reason for rising from the dead; that this is absolutely beyond the ability and the merit of every other human being and is centered solely in one single Man, who was unknown to the world and despised by it, who, moreover, died a most shameful and miserable death. To Him all the world is to accord honor, and He is to be regarded as the One by whom we all rise again. No holy monk, Carthusian, yes, no prophet, apostle, or martyr, can contribute anything toward this or merit it with all his doings. This appears preposterous as we ponder it. It often appeared strange and odd to me myself. It is surely hard to convince the heart of this article. When I behold a corpse carried out and buried, it is hard to go my way and believe and think that we will some day rise together. How so, or by what power? Not by myself or by virtue of any merit on earth, but by this one Christ. And that is indeed certain, far more certain than the fact that I will be buried and see someone else buried, which I know with certainty and behold with my eyes. Therefore this is a sermon for Christians and an article of faith. All who are of the world regard this as sheer fraud. They argue that it is impossible for God to be so foolish and to condemn the whole world without distinction for the sake of one man, or, on the other hand, to save all men without any merit of theirs for the sake of one Man.

“For in their opinion, if fair judgment is to be exercised, everyone should die or live as an individual and in accordance with his own deserts, just as a criminal is hanged or beheaded because of his misdeeds. Ordinarily everybody is penalized for his own crime and rewarded for his own piety, it is entirely incongruous that someone should die or be acquitted for the sake of someone else. The belief of the Turks today and, to be sure, of the entire world at its best, would be considered just and fair by the world, namely, that the pious shall rise on the Last Day

and live, and vice versa. But that one Man should account for all others and that the question of dying or living of all is dependent on the deserts of someone else, in a manner that all derives from one father and is devoid of any other cause—that is regarded as teaching and preaching offensively and ridiculously. However, it pleased God to adopt that plan. He wants to make a fool of the world and of the wise, carrying out His work so that no one can comprehend it.

“For if He did what you and I can understand and sketch out for Him, what honor would He derive from that? Or what sort of a God would He be who let us instruct Him, or who would be directed by us and work according to our wisdom? But as it is, He works in a manner in which His wisdom remains profounder than ours; we have to surrender to it and desist from criticizing. We must say: “According to my wisdom this does not seem good; however, since You say it, it is just and good.” Anyone who will not do that but instead places His own wisdom before and above God’s and judges Him accordingly, let him beware what he is doing. We, however, will confine our wisdom to things here below and apply it to cows and horses, trees, houses, fields, etc. In this area you may be smart and judge and rule as you will, and you may stick to your opinion. But we must not interfere with His wisdom and rule. That is too high and far removed for us, since we are under Him and He is over us as our Creator and Lord. Therefore we must give ear to Him and believe what He says, so that His honor remains unsullied and His grace and mercy alone prevail, without any glory or merit of ours” (LW 28:115-118).



## Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

This year’s Lenten and Holy Week observances and Easter celebrations were meaningful and joyful, respectively. We wish to thank all those who prepared soup and other dinner and dessert items for our Lenten Soup Suppers. We thank Richard Deal and Ken Murrell for leading us in worship throughout the Lenten and Holy Week services. We also thank Richard Deal and the choir for their sterling contributions on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Also on Easter Sunday, we thank Scott Brown (percussion), Dave Emerson (guitar), Clarence McDuffie III (trumpet), Ken Murrell (vocals), and Brad Sollenberger (bass) for their powerful rendition of “He’s Alive!”

The Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, 19 April, was a grand success. People generously shelled out to donate the needed plastic eggs, candy, and other treats. The lunch provided was super, or was that supper? We thank Whitney Utley and Judi Cole for organizing this event.

We are most grateful to Judy Kirk and Laurie Floren for decorating the cross again this year with such a wonderful array of flowers. The cross looked truly spectacular and visually reflects the glory of the resurrection.

Following the Easter Sunday service the congregation was treated to a lovely Easter brunch. We thank Cheryl Gray, Judi Cole, and many others for preparing and providing so many different types of foods and treats for this event. We also thank those who spent considerable time decorating the Lower Level for the Easter brunch.

Finally, we thank Lupita Contreras and Eugenio Cruz for all their behind the scenes and not so behind the scenes efforts throughout the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter season as their otherwise busy schedules allowed.



## Flag Day Parade

The La Mesa Flag Day Parade will take place on Saturday, June 14th. In the past, St. Luke's has participated in the Flag Day Parade to promote VBS. Family volunteers with kids to walk and ride in the back of Ted's truck and hand out VBS flyers would be greatly appreciated.

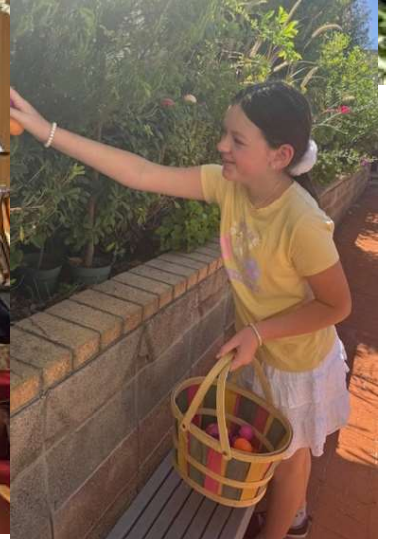


## Vacation Bible School (VBS)

In the past, VBS ran for 5 days one week in the summer from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, which we'd like to do this year in July. Dinner is provided to VBS attendees and volunteers. Volunteers will be needed for decorating, running groups during the week, and cooking dinner. Groups include storytelling, arts and crafts, outdoor games, food craft, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), and music. Please let Whitney Utey know if you'd be available to volunteer. Thank you.









Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Soon after Easter Sunday, as I was pondering the awesome reality of Jesus' death on the cross and His glorious resurrection, I noticed that my Christmas cactus was blooming again - at Easter! WOW! How poignant! I absolutely love Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth -- but if there were no Easter, no death on the cross and no resurrection of Jesus on Easter, His birth would simply be a celebration of another life - not the entrance of the King of Kings, born as a human to redeem you and me through His sacrifice by death on the cross and victory over sin and death by His resurrection! Jesus was born in order to die for you and me and to restore us by His grace to relationship with God. Incredible! And my Christmas cactus was celebrating!

I started thinking about our seeds of possibilities for projects, gatherings and activities as Women of St. Luke's. To what is God calling us? How is He building our relationships with Himself and with one another? As we focus on Him and receive His gifts of grace, redemption and restoration, may we blossom as "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10) It is by His grace and calling that we individually and collectively will bloom and be His masterpiece.

Except the Lord build the building, all labor is in vain.  
But if God builds a house so fine it will surely stand  
against the test of time.  
My God's building a building of this life of mine.

It's a holy habitation in which His Spirit does dwell.  
And it's built on the solid rock of Jesus' name  
and He's always the same.  
My God's building a building of this life of mine.

By His hands I am fitly framed; His praise I proclaim.  
No matter what life may bring, my heart is gonna sing  
'cuz He's my resident King  
My God's building a building of this life of mine.

Except the Lord build the building, all labor is in vain.  
But if God builds a house so fine it will surely stand  
against the test of time.  
My God's building a building of this life of mine

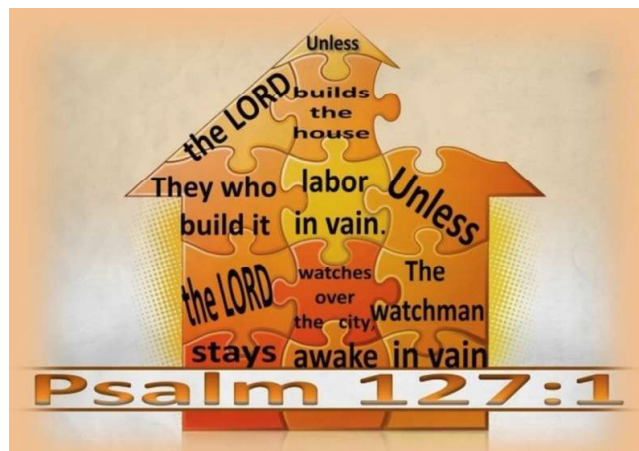


May 17th is the date of our Ladies' Springtime Tea.  
What a beautiful time of joy and celebration it will be.  
Watch for your invitations and mark your calendars.  
Invite your Moms, daughters, granddaughters and  
nieces.

May our lives celebrate Jesus' saving grace moment by  
moment.

In His service,

*Laurie*



## MAY WORSHIP TEXTS

### Third Sunday of Easter — May 4, 2025

First Lesson — Acts 9:1–22

Psalm 30

Second Lesson — Revelation 5:1–14

Gospel — John 21:1–19

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

— May 11, 2025

First Lesson — Acts 20:17–35

Psalm 23

Second Lesson — Revelation 7:9–17

Gospel — John 10:22–30

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

— May 18, 2025

First Lesson — Acts 11:1–18

Psalm 148

Second Lesson — Revelation 21:1–7

Gospel — John 16:12–22

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

— May 25, 2025

First Lesson — Acts 16:9–15

Psalm 67

Second Lesson — Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

Gospel — John 5:1–9



Ed Foreman	5/6
Shirley Carrington	5/7
Isabelle Reisert	5/13
Randy Engel	5/15
Theresa East	5/17
Ryan Yerger	5/19
Jeannie Meranda	5/28
Janice Urich	5/30



Denise & Mark Stephens 5/30



## Coffee Hour Hosts for May

May 4th — Jennifer Killion

May 11th — Pending Host

May 18th — Pending Host

May 25th — Pending Host

## MAY'S PRAYER CALENDAR

"Trust in the Lord"

1	Psalm 27:11-14	<p><i>What God ordains is always good: His Will is just and Holy As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly. My God indeed in every need Knows well how He will shield me: To Him then, I will yield me.</i></p> <p><i>What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me; He leads me in His righteous way, And Never will He leave me. I take content what He has sent: His hand that send me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness.</i></p> <p><i>What God ordains is always good. This truth remains unshaken Though sorrow, needs, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken. I fear no harm for with His arm He shall embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.</i></p> <p><i>Hymn 760 Verses 1,2,6 LSB</i></p>
2	Psalm 52: 8-9	
3	Psalm 145:13-21	
4	Psalm 86:5-13	
5	Psalm 147:7-11	
6	Psalm 118:28,29	
7	Psalm 31:19-24	
8	Colossians 1:9-14	
9	I John 1:5-7	
10	Psalm 121:1-8	
11	James 1:17-18	
12	Romans 8:26-28	
13	Romans 8:31-34	
14	Romans 8:35-39	
15	Isaiah 40:27-31	
16	Psalm 91:1-4	
17	I Peter 1:3-7	
18	Psalm 33:4-9	
19	I Corinthians 2:4-9	
20	Ephesians 2:4-10	
21	Psalm 34:1-10	
22	Psalm 36:5-9	
23	Ephesians 1:3-7	
24	Psalm 91:1-4	
25	I Corinthians 1:19-22	
26	Roman 5:6-10	
27	Colossians 2:9-15	
28	Psalm 100:1-5	
29	Hebrews 4:14-16	
30	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	
31	Isaiah 26:3-4	



## **MAY'S WORSHIP TEAMS**

	Reader(s)	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Colleen Olsen</i>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard &amp; Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Bob &amp; Cheryl Gray</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>11th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Nola + Rick Godfrey</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Randy Engel &amp; Cheri Murrell</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Stasha Raschtschenia and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
<b>18th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Laurie Floren &amp; Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Kim &amp; David Emerson</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Stasha Raschtschenia and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Ken Murrell</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion &amp; Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Gary &amp; Carol Prior</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Stasha Raschtschenia</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>

# MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>6</b> 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>7</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>8</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics 6:00pm Council mtg	<b>14</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>15</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 am JOY 1:30 pm Gideons Int'l 12:00 pm WSL Tea Party
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>21</b> 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>22</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:00 am JOY
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 8:30 pm Special Olympics	<b>28</b> 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	<b>29</b> 8:00 am Tai Chi 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00 am JOY

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**LA MESA, CA 91942**

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Dated Material  
May 2025

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
- Bible Study: Wednesday 7th & 21st in the Lower Level

**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.*