



Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

June 2025
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 25 Issue 6

How Important is God's Word to You?

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

We often think that God's word is ancillary to our lives, an add-on which we can take or leave as our mood or needs suit us. Some of the members of the church in Corinth had similar thoughts. Below is another excerpt from Luther's commentary on I Corinthians 15 which specifically raises this topic. In relation to verse 34, Luther writes,

"Wake up fully, and sin no more. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame" (I Corinthians 15:34 - Luther's translation)

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"St. Paul adds these words in order to exhort and warn them [the Corinthian congregation] the more strongly against evil talk, showing them how to comport themselves, lest they be misled. He wishes to say: 'See to it that such babblers do not find you drowsy or sleepy or weary and indolent. For so you are already giving way to them, and the door is open to all babblers and seducers. I have often said, and I still say, that this is a most pernicious vice, which is called satiety, or, as it has been called to date but not understood or explained correctly, slothfulness toward worship. In it one is bored with the sermon and says: 'Oh, I know this myself; I have often heard it; if I care to, I can read it at home. Why should I constantly listen to the selfsame thing?' They go their way, assuming that they possess the treasure in rich measure, so that they cannot want for it. But St. Paul declares the reverse here: 'Beware and be on your guard lest you become too secure and imagine that you know it too well; for you will surely be deceived.' For even if a person is on his guard, it will



be difficult to prevent evil talk from entering secretly and before one is aware of it.

“Therefore it is always necessary to live vigilantly and circumspectly and cautiously, so that we are not taken unawares and work our own harm. Otherwise we might share the fate of those who suddenly and unexpectedly go to the devil. Take an example from an insane man whom I have seen. Whenever he opened his mouth, he would invariably say: ‘Thousand devils!’ also when he stumbled or bumped against some object. His neighbor often warned him to drop those words. He might, the neighbor said, fall perilously and fatally some time, and then the fellow whom he named would come after him. But he ignored this and said: ‘Oh, if it really comes to that, I myself know very well that I must shun those words.’ However, not long after this it happened that he crossed a bridge, and before he knew it, he stumbled and fell into the water. And immediately he uttered the customary words: ‘Well, in the name of a thousand devils!’ The devil appeared at once, broke his neck and fetched him as he had desired. 50 These smug spirits may fare the same way. They regard themselves so learned and so safe that they need not hear this or read it or think that the devil comes creeping along stealthily with evil talk and suggestions, making them lose Christ and His Word. And now the devil sways them as he will.

“I myself often experienced and discovered that the devil can cunningly lead a person away from the Word. Whenever he notices that I am armed and that I am occupying myself with God’s Word, he leaves me in peace. However, when I give him even as little leeway as not to think of it and to occupy myself with other matters, he comes after me and quickly gives me a blow, which makes my position difficult until I can again lay hold of the Word. What would happen if I, too, were so smug and deemed myself so learned and refrained from preaching or hearing and reading the Word for half a year or a quarter of a year, since I have enough to do

as it is to defend myself with daily study and prayer?

“Therefore, if you want to avoid being misled, St. Paul says, and losing what you have, you must be watchful and not snore. You must cultivate the Word so that you can maintain your position and defend yourself against this evil pest to keep it from gaining a foothold among you. It does not lie within your power to prevent evil talk from arising and to prevent hearing the world; but it behooves you to be vigilant and not to give way to it but to ward it off wherever it raises its head. For the devil will surely not slumber or snore but will assail you, too, on all sides, wherever you may be. Therefore you must also be on your guard against this, armed with God’s Word wherever you are, at home or abroad, in church, in your chamber, at table, and wherever you associate with people. Thus God also commanded His people to write and inscribe His commandments everywhere before their eyes so that they could always behold them and thereby resist all kinds of temptation and offense (Deut. 6:6 ff.).

“Such diligent occupation and concern with God’s Word St. Paul expresses with the words ‘wake up’ or ‘be vigilant.’ He does not speak merely of waking up but of waking up fully, or of being so wide-awake that it can really and blessedly be called that, that is, according to God’s Word. The world, too, is vigilant with regard to its affairs, but not with regard to God’s Word. But it is true vigilance to be awake in God’s Word, with it to repeal and defeat the devil and his poisonous darts. Therefore this does not mean to watch as a city watchman does, to prevent someone from breaking in or working harm; or as master or mistress watches in a home to assure that the servants arise early in the morning and perform their tasks. That is a part of municipal and domestic administration, to see to it that everybody attends to his duties and that all proceeds properly. But here, St. Paul says, we must watch so as not to sin. The world must watch against poverty, against disturbance of the peace, or against enemies, so that all may

be well with people and country. But our watching serves to end sin and to prosper and preserve righteousness; it serves the reign of faith and of love and the extermination of unbelief. This demands that we earnestly occupy ourselves with and cultivate God's Word always and everywhere, snatch it up avidly, hear it, sing it, speak and read it gladly against the despicable satiety and indolence of which I have spoken. Then we will have our castle and fortress well guarded and all holes closed to keep the devil from stealing in. Otherwise, if I or others fail to preach with diligence and if you do not hear it or are practiced in it, imagining that you are well acquainted with it—that is not watching or warding off but slumbering, letting your head droop, indeed, it is snoring right in the midst of the devil's guns and spears and affording him a good and safe place for breaking in and ascending into the castle without difficulty" (LW 28:164-167).

Vacation Bible School 2025

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2025 is quickly approaching and is scheduled for July 21-25 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This year's theme is "Restored in Christ." The Bible teaches that we are restored in Christ through baptism. Do you remember your baptism? What is baptism anyway? VBS 2025 will be awash with dinner, singing, lessons, games, and crafts. Preschool, elementary school, and adult learners are welcome. VBS at St. Luke's is a whole congregational event. Please see Whitney Utley for more details about participating in VBS 2025.



La Mesa Flag Day Parade

- 14 June

As in years past, St. Luke's will participate in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade to promote Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year's flag day parade is on Saturday, 14 June. Staging on the day is 8:00 - 9:30 am, and the parade itself begins at 10:00 am. Ted Olsen will provide his truck for SLLC's float entry, but the church will need volunteers to create the float and to participate in the parade both riding on the float and distributing VBS flyers to parade attendees. Please see Whitney Utley for more details about participating in the Flag Day Parade.



Church Council Resolution

At its meeting on 13 May 2025, St. Luke's church council passed a resolution to coordinate and streamline congregational activities and to review and approve any external communications regarding such activities prior to dissemination both internally and externally. So, if you would like to plan an activity, please formulate a proposal for that activity and submit it to the church council to review and to provide guidance prior to implementing any activities.

What a celebration!

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Oh, the joy of fellowship! Oh, the privilege of gathering together as Daughters of the King!

And, oh, the wonder of such beautiful tables and delicious food!

What a marvelous time we shared at our Ladies' Springtime Tea on Saturday, May 17th!



A huge THANK YOU to our eight Table Hostesses! Each set a lovely table for our guests and provided such a welcoming presence at their tables. The hostesses included:

Dianne Foreman

Nola Godfrey

Cheryl Gray

Jennifer Killion

Cheri Murrell

Carol Prior

Karen Skullerud

Renee Stanton



Our Gentlemen's Wait Staff deserves our heartfelt gratitude. They attended to our needs with sincere joy and marvelous efficiency. The Gentlemen's Wait Staff included:

Ed Foreman

Rick Godfrey

Mel Horning

Peter Laursen

Stewart Mossman

Gary Prior

Ken Proctor

Tim Smith



Carol Prior created the delicious array of quiches and prepared the yummy salad and fresh fruit that adorned our tables and delighted our taste buds. **Bonnie Halverson** baked all of the scrumptious scones, and I helped prepare our peach cobbler dessert. Thank you ... thank you ... thank you for your gifts of time and culinary skills. It was a fabulous feast!

The beautiful teapots with the cheery flower arrangements were provided and created by **Heather Raschtschenia**. They certainly augmented the wonderful festivities of our Ladies' Springtime Tea. Thank you so much.

May each of us remember the truth of **1 Peter 2:9** which says,

*" You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."*

So grateful to be a daughter of the
King of Kings!

In His service,

Laurie





JUNE WORSHIP TEXTS

Seventh Sunday of Easter — June 1, 2025

First Lesson — Acts 1:12–26

Psalm 133

Second Lesson — Revelation 22:1–6, 12–20

Gospel — John 17:20–26

The Day of Pentecost — June 8, 2025

First Lesson — Genesis 11:1–9

Psalm 143

Second Lesson — Acts 2:1–21

Gospel — John 14:23–31

The Holy Trinity — June 15, 2025

First Lesson — Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

Psalm 8

Second Lesson — Acts 2:14a, 22–36

Gospel — John 8:48–59

Second Sunday after Pentecost

— June 22, 2025

First Lesson — Isaiah 65:1–9

Psalm 3

Second Lesson — Galatians 3:23–4:7

Gospel — Luke 8:26–39

Third Sunday after Pentecost

— June 29, 2025

First Lesson — 1 Kings 19:9b–21

Psalm 16

Second Lesson — Galatians 5:1, 13–25

Gospel — Luke 9:51–62



Jillian Barnard

6/20

Laurie Floren

6/9

Emily Rose Menacher

6/11



Herbert & Patti Boekamp

6/27

Ted & Shirley Crossley

6/2



Coffee Hour Hosts for June

June 1st — Pending host

June 8th — Pending host

June 15th — Pending host

June 22nd — Pending host

June 29th — Pending host

JUNE PRAYER CALENDAR

“Thy Grace Alone”

1	John 1:9-16	<p><i>Not what these hands have done can save this guilty soul; not what this toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.</i></p> <p><i>Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God; not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.</i></p> <p><i>Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin; Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.</i></p> <p><i>Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee, can rid me of the dark unrest, and set my spirit free.</i></p> <p><i>Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak; Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.</i></p> <p><i>I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine; and with unfalt'ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.</i></p> <p><i>Lutheran Service Book</i></p>
2	Ephesians 1:3-10	
3	Matthew 11:25-30	
4	Luke 4:18-21	
5	John 3:16-18	
6	John 14:1-7	
7	Romans 3:19-16	
8	Romans 4:1-8	
9	Psalms 33:18-22	
10	I Peter 1:1-5	
11	2 Corinthians 12:7-10	
12	Titus 3:4-7	
13	Romans 3:19-26	
14	Psalms 62:5-8	
15	Galatians 2:20-21	
16	I Corinthians 1:4-9	
17	I Peter 1:17-21	
18	2 Peter 1:3-4	
19	Psalms 63:1-7	
20	Ephesians 2:4-10	
21	Colossians 1:9-14	
22	Psalms 37:23-28	
23	2 Peter 1:1-4	
24	I Peter 5:6-11	
25	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	
26	Psalms 91:1-4	
27	I John 3:1-3	
28	Hebrews 13:20-21	
29	I John 3:1-3	
30	Hebrews 10:19-23	

WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Whitney Utley</i>
1st	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stasha Raschtschenia and Audrey Utley</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
8th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Nola + Rick Godfrey</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel & Cheri Murrell</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
15th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jennifer Killion & Jillian Barnard</i>
	Greeter	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Cheri Murrell</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Kim & David Emerson</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
22nd	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jillian Barnard & Randy Engel</i>
	Greeter	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Prior</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Stasha Raschtschenia</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
29th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Laurie Floren</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Kim & David Emerson</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Audrey Utley</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	2 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	3 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Men's Group 8:30 pm Special Olympics	4 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm No Service	5 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	6	7 8:00 am JOY
8 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	9 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	10 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00pm Council mtg	11 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	12 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	13	14 8:00 am JOY 8:00 am Flag Day Parade
15 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	16 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	17 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	18 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	19 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	20	21 7:00 am Finding Solutions for Seniors 8:00 am JOY
22 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	23 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	24 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	25 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	26 8:00 am Tai Chi 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Catechism	27	28 8:00 am JOY
29 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	30 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA					

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Dated Material

June 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: June 4th and 18th 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.