

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

July 2025
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 25 Issue 7

Vacation Bible School 2025 - Not Just for Children!

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 COVID interruption to life around the globe created quite a disruption to many church activities, particularly Vacation Bible School (VBS). Originally, VBS was conceived as a way to educate non-churched youngsters in a local Bible camp sort of atmosphere. As many of us know, VBS in the "old days" often lasted at last a half day for a full two weeks. VBS was primarily organized and taught by a congregation's women because the dads were working. As employment demographics changed, fewer congregational ladies were available to lead VBS. To address this situation, VBS in many cases began to offer their educational activities in the evening. St. Luke's is a case in point.

During the COVID lockdowns against churches in California (now declared illegal), VBS ground almost to a halt. To fight the good fight, St. Luke's offered VBS kits which families could collect in their cars and do at home. Obviously, this was a far cry from VBS being a whole congregational activity. Since then, VBSs in many congregations have hardly recovered. Weekend VBS ventures in recent years at St. Luke's have been a shadow of their former selves.



This year, St. Luke's will again try a week long VBS on 21-25 July from 5:00-8:00 pm. This week will include dinner, learning, crafts, games, music, and so forth. VBS 2025 looks forward to welcoming children in Kindergarten through sixth grade and adults too. Welcoming learners is half of the goal. The other half is recovering the sense of VBS being a whole congregational activity, a sort of family camp for church members, family, guests, friends, and even enemies.

To accomplish all those VBS activities, the church needs volunteers to help. We will need shoppers, food preparers, cooks, cleaners, teachers, craft leaders, musicians, and other leaders of various kinds. That is why VBS is a whole congregational effort not only for visiting learners but also for ourselves. For five evenings, we have the opportunity to spend time with God's word and God's people in fun and fellowship.

This year's VBS theme is baptism. What is baptism? Why do Christians baptize people? When should people be baptized? What does the Bible say about baptism? What do Lutherans teach about baptism? What do other churches teach about it? What happens if we die and are not baptized? Here is a preview from Romans chapter six:

"1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to

sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Is that not good news? Please invite people to attend VBS 2025 at St. Luke's, and then, talk to Whitney Utley or to Pastor Mark about ways to become involved to help share this good news with others during St. Luke's VBS 2025.



Many Thanks Pastor Gleason

We wish to thank Pastor Gleason Snashall for covering for Pastor Mark on both 01 June and on 29 June. On the first Sunday, Pastor Mark was away to help his elder daughter, and on the second occasion Pastor Mark was attending a church conference. Pastor Gleason also regularly teaches the adult Sunday school class at St. Luke's. We are grateful for Pastor Gleason's many and various forms of service to us all.



Many Thanks St. Luke's Paraders

In an effort to promote VBS 2025 at St. Luke's on 21-25 July, this year as in years past St. Luke's participated in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade held on Saturday, 14 June. We wish to thank Whitney Utley for leading the effort. We thank Ted Olsen for donating his truck for the float. We thank all those who decorated the float on the Friday prior to the parade. Finally, we thank all those who participated during the parade riding on the float and handing out VBS 2025 flyers to bystanders along the parade route.



Dear Women of St. Luke's,

Since I was a young Sunday School student, I have been intrigued by the "Feeding of the 5,000". What an amazing story! I have marveled at Jesus' miraculous turning of five loaves and two fish into enough to feed all those people and have LOTS left over. I always wished to have been there to see that little boy's lunch be blessed, broken, and multiplied. Remarkable!

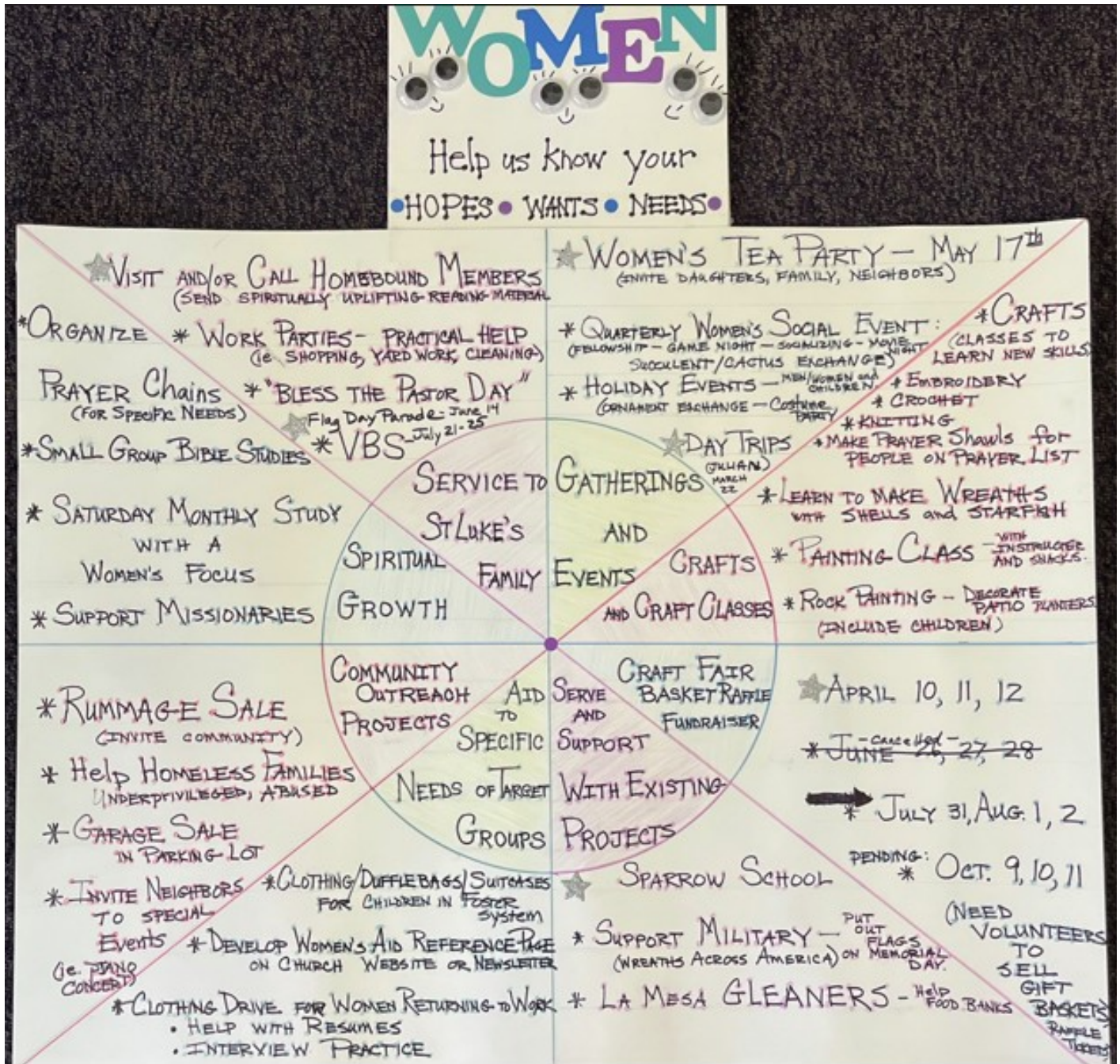
I have also been encouraged by Jesus' directive to the Disciples to feed the people. They were, at first, perplexed knowing that they didn't have access to catering service in that remote area and, certainly, didn't have enough with them to feed the crowd. But Jesus knew there would be ample supply because He would cause the increase. What He called them to do, He would equip them and enable them to do.

What has astounded me most through the years is the little boy's offering of what he had – his little lunch. I have asked myself – Would I have stepped up to offer my little bit of food to do as Jesus asked? Would I have held it back thinking it was "not enough" and "surely wouldn't even make a difference"? I have wondered if I would have been embarrassed at the possible response of Jesus or the Disciples or the crowd to my feeble offering. But that little boy stepped up and offered what he had! What joy he must have felt as Jesus miraculously used his little lunch.

A few months ago, we compiled a chart of "Hopes and Wants and Needs" that we, the Women of St. Luke's, desire to put into action. It is quite an expansive list – though, indeed, not a full 5,000 options! But, still, it is a lot to pursue. I asked each of us, then, to pray about what specific opportunities might God put on our individual hearts. What "little lunch" has He given each of us that He might multiply to meet the identified needs?

The month of July has Vacation Bible School on July 21 – 25. Do you hear God's call to be part of feeding our children? No offering is too small. The end of the month brings another Craft Fair and another opportunity to sell Raffle Tickets for marvelous baskets – raising money for us to fund needy charitable groups. Do you hear His calling? Each Sunday there is also opportunity to hear God's call to prepare treats for the fellowship hour after church. Is God calling you to participate?

It is humbling that the God of all Creation chooses to use you and me as He reaches out to feed people and draw them to Himself. Will you take another look at our list of opportunities and, prayerfully, ask God to guide your focus? Our chart will be available during July for you to "offer your lunch" to various areas. There will be places to sign up, show interest and, in time, participate.



Let's see what God will do when He blesses our little lunches.

In His service,

Laurie

it's coffee time

Coffee Hour Hosts for July

July 6th — Terry East

July 13th — Pending Host

July 20th — Pending Host

July 27th — Pending Host



Worship

TEXTS

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

— July 6, 2025

First Lesson — Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-7

Second Lesson — Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

Gospel — Luke 10:1-20

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

— July 13, 2025

First Lesson — Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18

Psalm 41

Second Lesson — Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel — Luke 10:25-37

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

— July 20, 2025

First Lesson — Genesis 18:1-14

Psalm 27:(1-6) 7-14

Second Lesson — Colossians 1:21-29

Gospel — Luke 10:38-42

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

— July 27, 2025

First Lesson — Genesis 18: 20-33

Psalm 138

Second Lesson — Colossians 2:6-15

Gospel — Luke 11:1-13



Anne Marie Gummesson 7/02

Gary Prior 7/05

Judith Cole 7/12

Martha Applegate 7/17

Jennifer Killion 7/20

Sarah Scott 7/22

Cheryl Walczak 7/23

Suzanne Miller 7/26

Mel Horning 7/31



Sheila & Tom Stubbs 7/5

Pete & Karen Mylerberg 7/26

George & Karen Parcells 7/29

JULY PRAYER CALENDAR

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

1	Ephesians 1:3-10	<p><i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.</i></p> <p><i>Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.</i></p> <p><i>Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lutheran Service Book Hymn 809</i></p>
2	Ephesians 2:4-7	
3	Psalms 57:1-3	
4	2 Corinthians 1:3-6	
5	Psalms 63:1-8	
6	Deuteronomy 7:6-11	
7	Ephesians 1:11-14	
8	Psalms 69:13-18	
9	I Corinthians 10:13-14	
10	Psalms 59:16-17	
11	Psalms 145:13-21	
12	II Corinthians 1:3-7	
13	Colossians 1:17-20	
14	Psalms 31:1-5	
15	I Thessalonians 5:14-24	
16	II Thessalonians 3:1-5	
17	Psalms 32:1-5	
18	Hebrews 4:14-16	
19	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	
20	Psalms 43:1-10	
21	Hebrews 9:11-14	
22	Hebrews 3:4-7	
23	Psalms 36:5-9	
24	Exodus 15:1-3	
25	Isaiah 41:5-10	
26	I Peter 5:6-11	
27	Romans 16:25-27	
28	II Corinthians 6:16-18	
29	Psalms 103:1-5	
30	Psalms 103:8-14	
31	Lamentations 3:19-24	

WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader(s)	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
6th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Max Castillo & Jillian Barnard</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Mark Menacher</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob & Cheryl Gray</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Audrey Utley and Volunteer</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
13th	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>Ted Olsen</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Stasha Raschtschenia and Volunteer</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Judi Cole</i>
20th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Judi Cole</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>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Kim & David Emerson</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Audrey Utley and Volunteer</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Jennifer Killion</i>
27th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Laurie Floren</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary & Carol Prior</i>
	Acolytes	<i>Audrey Utley and Volunteer</i>
	Sound Tech	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	Counter	<i>Judi Cole</i>

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	2 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	3 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	4	5 8:00 am JOY
6 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	7 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	8 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	9 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	10 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	11	12 8:00 am JOY
13 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	14 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	15 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day 6:00 pm Council mtg	16 10:00 am WSL Bible Study 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	17 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Al-Anon	18	19 8:00 am JOY
20 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	21 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA 5:00 pm VBS	22 8:00 am Tai Ch 9:30 am Project Day 5:00 pm VBS	23 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service 5:00 pm VBS	24 8:00 am Tai Chi 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Al-Anon 5:00 pm VBS	25	26 8:00 am JOY
27 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School 5:00 pm Al-Anon	28 9:00 am Counters 5:00 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm AA	29 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	30 11:00 am Staff 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service 12:00 pm Apprecrate Craft Show			

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5150 WILSON ST.

LA MESA, CA 91942

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PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material
July 2025

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

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.