

Parish Rebuilder

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 5150 WILSON ST. LA MESA, CA 91942

619-463-6633 www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

August 2023

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue 8

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

Please contact Debbie in the office to discuss membership or to arrange an appointment with the pastor:

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

Table of Contents

Pastor Mark	page 1
WSL	page 4
VBS Highlights	Page 5
Special Dates/Worship Text	page 7
Prayer Calendar	page 8
Worship Teams	page 9
Monthly Calendar	page 10

Upcoming Events

SLTA classes coming soon

Sunday School begin Sunday September 10

AppleCrate Carft Fair:
August 31-September 2

Close Encounters of the Divine Kind

Have you ever wanted a close encounter with God, a personal close encounter? Have you ever wondered or felt a little envious of others who have claimed to have had such? In his commentary on the book of Genesis, Luther reflects on God speaking with Abraham and how God also interacts with "the rest of us." Excerpts follow:

"When He (God) had finished talking with him (Abraham), God went up from Abraham" (Genesis 17:22).

"Moses added this closing statement in order to commend to us this account in which there is so long a conversation of God with Abraham. For it is of the highest importance when God speaks. The next thing, but separated by a great interval, is when everything is done by us in accordance with the Word of God.

"This closing statement proves that God appeared in some visible form when He had this conversation with Abraham. God most commonly speaks through the patriarchs and those who are in the public ministry of the Word. Next in order, He is wont to appear in dreams, as at Bethel and Ai, and sometimes through a vision seen in an ecstatic state, when a human being seems to have been snatched outside himself, as above, when God brought Abraham out to count the stars. But in the present instance God appeared in some visible form and spoke personally with Abraham, not through a human being or an angel.

"And this is the reason why Holy Scripture gives Abraham this glory and calls him a friend and intimate of God in Isaiah (41:8). Thus Christ does not call His apostles servants; He calls them friends

(Matt. 12:49). And it is indeed something very great to have God conversing and associating with us.

“Nor are we ourselves deprived of this gift. Even though God does not appear to us in an extraordinary form, as He did to Abraham, yet His usual and most friendly and most intimate appearance is this, that He presents Himself to us in the Word, in the use of the Keys, in Baptism, and in the Lord’s Supper...

“Therefore we, too, could glory as the patriarch Abraham did. Indeed, if Abraham himself had seen the kindness God shows by speaking and associating with us daily through the ministry in Baptism and in the Lord’s Supper, he would have died from wonderment and joy.

“The monks extol the legends of their fathers Benedict and Bernard, but surely God generally speaks at far greater length and associates far more intimately with any Christian whatever than they boast about their fathers. Indeed, if I had the matter under my control, I would not want God to speak to me from heaven or to appear to me; but this I would want—and my daily prayers are directed to this end—that I might have the proper respect and true appreciation for the gift of Baptism, that I have been baptized, and that I see and hear brothers who have the grace and gift of the Holy Spirit and are able to comfort and encourage with the Word, to admonish, warn, and teach. For what better and more profitable appearance of God do you want?

“But alas, the proud spirits despise these things, and we, too, do not assign to these common appearances in the Word, Baptism, the Lords Supper, etc., the position we should give them. We would consider it as something glorious for us, however, if, as Münzer used to boast, God spoke with us visibly. But the outcome has shown what sort of God this was, namely, Satan, who feigns the glory of the Divine Majesty.

“These facts must be impressed rather frequently, and it is not without reason that I am repeating them. If Abraham should be compared with us who live in the New Testament, he is, for

the most part, less important than we are, provided that one considers the matter impartially. To be sure, in his case the personal gifts are greater; but God did not manifest Himself to him in a closer and more friendly manner than He does to us. Let it indeed be a great glory to have those appearances, but what greater or better advantage did Abraham have from them than the fact that God spoke with him? This happens to us too, however, and indeed daily, as often as and wherever we wish. It is true that you hear a human being when you are baptized and when you partake of the Holy Supper. But the Word which you hear is not that of a human being; it is the Word of the living God. It is He who baptizes you; it is He who absolves you from sins; and it is He who commands you to hope in His mercy...

“Learn, therefore, that throughout one’s life, in every work, and in every situation one must give attention above all to the Word of God. To the patriarchs and the prophets God appeared in an extraordinary manner, in dreams, in a vision, or through the words of the patriarchs and sometimes even of angels. We do not long for such revelations or appearances; we are satisfied, and we thank God to the best of our ability for our own appearances and faces of God, which we behold in Baptism and in the entire ministry of the Word. It is there that a brother becomes an angel for his brother. He absolves him from sins, comforts, instructs, strengthens, warns, admonishes, etc.

“These are our own appearances, and we justly value them most highly, For through them we know God and obtain eternal life. Therefore one must note the differences in the legends or the lives of human beings. If God never appears to me visibly, as He did to Abraham, I do not even desire that He do so. What is more, I would not be willing to believe that it is God unless I were manifestly compelled to do so, because for eternal salvation it is enough for me that I have been baptized, that I hear the Gospel, and that by virtue of the Keys I am absolved” (LW 3:164-167).

In other words, church is where God himself en-

counters sinners like us. In worship, God proclaims his promises to us in word and sacrament. Thereby, God creates the faith by which our sins are forgiven, by which we are justified. This all happens in Christ alone, by grace alone, by the word alone, for faith along which is the forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life.

Parish Education Returns

In case you have not noticed, over the past few years things have been somewhat in disarray due to the chaos and confusion created by COVID-19. Illegal lockdowns decreed by state governors hit churches particularly hard. With the desire to keep some semblance of viable worship in place, many or most other church activities were either neglected or suspended. This has been particularly the case with Parish Education.

This autumn, St. Luke's would like to start rebuilding its parish education activities, particularly for children. St. Luke's has its own children's Sunday school curriculum for grades one through six. This curriculum contains short, easy to use lessons which are designed for busy Sunday school teachers and for active families which desire to give their children a solid introduction to the Christian faith.

If you are interested in previewing some of the curriculum, lessons for all years are available on St. Luke's website in PDF (<http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org/curricula.php>), alternately go to St. Luke's website, click on Academy, then click on Curricula.

Of course, these lessons do not teach themselves. So, if you are interested in teaching children's Sunday school, either individually or as a team, please talk to Pastor Mark. Also, if you are interested in teaching a Bible study or leading some other parish educational activity, please chat with Pastor about that too. As scripture indicates, the word became flesh and dwelt among us so that we could be given life abundantly by that same word.



Women of St. Luke's Annual Baby Shower

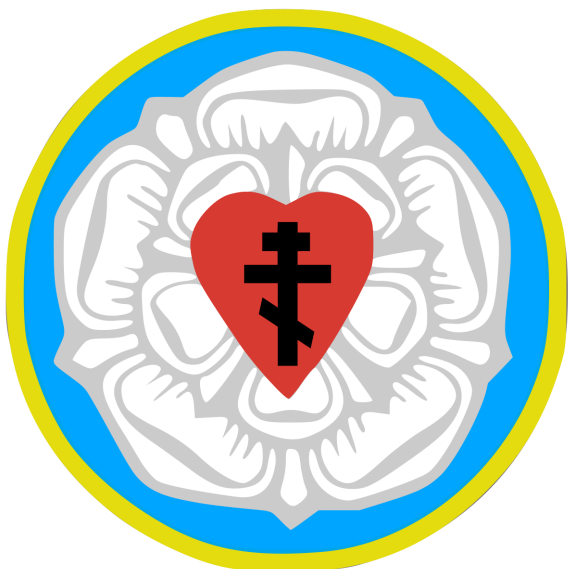
August 16th at 10:00 am in the Lower Level.



Donations of the following items may be brought to the shower or placed in the wagon located in the church narthex:

- Baby clothes – any size
- Maternity clothes – all sizes
- Diapers – size 3-6
- Baby wipes
- Baby towels and blankets
- Formula: Dry (Not expired)

A table will be set up in the narthex to accept cash/check donations or envelopes will be available for your donation at the shower.



First Communion

Lillian Heilpern's first communion on June 11, 2023.



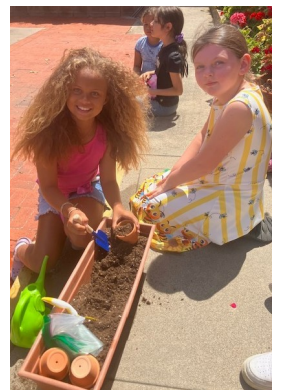
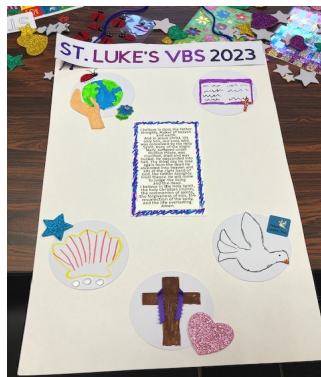
Lillian with her family.



Lillian with Pastor Mark Menacher.

VBS 2023 Highlights

The children and volunteers had a wonderful experience “digging” into the Apostles’ Creed during VBS July 8th and 9th.





Does Jesus have a sense of humor?

Have you heard the one: "A priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan are walking down the road?" (Matthew 19: 24)

Or what about "First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye!" (Matthew 7: 3-5) And even, "The blind are leading the blind right into a hole in the ground." (Matthew 15: 14)

I can just see Jesus telling these stories with a twinkle in His eye at the time. Not everyone "got" His humor in His Day, and not everyone understands Him today. Jesus told parables to speak to the hearts of His listeners. AND He is speaking to our hearts as well.



We hear mostly stories of his serious side, but it is good to know He had a down-to-earth side, a sense of humor side. A side of Himself that liked to smile and probably even laugh at His own jokes.



Remember the story (Luke 18:25) about the camel going through the eye of a needle being easier than a wealthy man getting into the kingdom of God?

I thank God for our happy sense of humor side. And for our pastor who displays his sense of humor constantly! Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of humor. Humor helps us through so much.

Submitted by Karen Skullerud

Thank You

THANK YOU

Thank you, Family of St. Luke's Lutheran Church for your prayers during this old-age crisis in my life. Also, thank you, Ladies of Reformation/St. Luke's Church for the Christian Cross quilt; it is the perfect size for warmth to my damaged shoulder.

May I share a true story:

My first month of recovery was with a granddaughter who is a nurse. When 5-year-old great grandson learned I would soon be leaving, He asked his mother, "Can Grandma have another stroke so she can come stay at our house again?"

Thank you, and God Bless each and everyone of you,

Lois Alfeld

Coming in soon!





Karen Parcells	8/04
Tavis Brown	8/05
Judy Horning	8/10
Kathy Coleman	8/13
Nancy Kearns	8/18
Tom Stubbs	8/27
Marie Handley	8/29
Alice Boe	8/31
Marge Hersom	8/31



Gary & Kathy Coleman 8/31

Looking for **REAL ESTATE** Assistance?

Call our own **RANDY ENGEL** with
Coldwell Banker

for all your **REAL ESTATE** needs!

619-401-3080

Each month our newsletter is published for free due to the
advertisements of local businesses.

Please take a moment each month
and see if the services
they provide could help you.

**COLDWELL
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AUGUST WORSHIP TEXT

6th

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 136:1-26

Second Lesson — Romans 9: 1-5

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 14:13-21

13th

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Job 38:4-18

Psalm 18:1-16

Second Lesson — Romans 10:5-17

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 14:22-33

20th

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Second Lesson — Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 15:21-28

27th

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Second Lesson — Romans 11:33-12:8

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST PRAYER CALENDAR

“How Great Is Our God!”

1	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>How Great Thou Art</i></p> <p><i>O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hand has made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed;</i></p> <p><i>Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!</i></p> <p><i>But when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin;</i></p> <p><i>Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!</i></p> <p><i>When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”</i></p> <p><i>Then sings my soul, my Savior, God to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!</i></p> <p><i>Then Sings my soul, my Savior, God to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Hymn 801 Verses 1,3,4 LSB</i></p>
2	Isaiah 40:27-31	
3	Isaiah 55:6-13	
4	Psalms 33:1-22	
5	Psalms 13:1-5	
6	Romans 29-39	
7	Psalms 145:1-21	
8	Ephesians 1:3-14	
9	Psalms 36:5-12	
10	Psalms 104:24-35	
11	Hebrews 1:1-12	
12	Psalms 89:13-18	
13	Psalms 65:1-13	
14	Isaiah 40:25-31	
15	Psalms 98:1-9	
16	Psalms 103:1-22	
17	Psalms 19:7-14	
18	Isaiah 43:1-7	
19	Ephesians 1:3-14	
20	Psalms 34:15-22	
21	Psalms 95:1-7	
22	Philippians 2:5-11	
23	Colossians 2:9-15	
24	Psalms 145:13-21	
25	Ephesians 2:1-10	
26	Hebrews 9:11-14	
27	Psalms 103:1-14	
28	1 Peter 1:3-9	
29	Colossians 1:15-20	
30	Revelation 21:1-7	
31	Revelation 22:1-5	

AUGUST WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader *MaryAnn Boullain*
Altar Guild *J. Hendrickson*

6th	Communion Assistant <i>Bob Urich</i> Communion Assistants: Wine <i>Ted Olsen & Cheri Murrell</i> Prayers of the People <i>Jillian Barnard</i> Projectionist <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> Usher Team <i>Randy Engel</i>
13th	Communion Assistant <i>Gleason Snashall</i> Communion Assistants: Wine <i>Cheri Murrell & Dianne Durrenberger</i> Prayers of the People <i>Randy Engel</i> Projectionist <i>Shirley Carrington</i> Usher Team <i>Dave & Kim Emerson</i>
20th	Communion Assistant <i>Gleason Snashall</i> Communion Assistants: Wine <i>Judi Cole & Jillian Barnard</i> Prayers of the People <i>Randy Engel</i> Projectionist <i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i> Usher Team <i>Bob Gray</i>
27th	Communion Assistant <i>Judi Cole</i> Communion Assistants: Wine <i>Cheri Murrell & Dianne Durrenberger</i> Prayers of the People <i>Laurie Floren</i> Projectionist <i>Shirley Carrington</i> Usher Team <i>Randy Engel</i>

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 am Tai Chi	2	3 8:00 am Tai Chi	4 Office Closed at Noon	5 9:00 am Altar Guild
6 9:00 am Worship	7 9:30 am Counters	8 8:00am Tai Chi 9:00 am Project Day	9	10 8:00 am Tai Chi	11	12 9:00 am Altar Guild 11:00 am ~3:00 pm Morrison Memorial
13 9:00 am Worship	14 1:30 pm Counters	15 8:00 am Tai Chi	16 10:00 am WSL Baby Shower	17 8:00 am Tai Chi	18	19 9:00 am Altar Guild
20 9:00 am Worship	21 9:30 am Counters	22 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:00 am Project Day	23	24 8.00 am Tai Chi	25	26 9:00 am Altar Guild
27 9:00 am Worship	28 1:30pm Counters	29 8:00 am Tai Chi	30	31 Craft Fair 4pm-7pm		

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Dated Material
AUGUST 2023

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:00 am.
- Tai Chi Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:00 am.
- Project Day Ladies meet August 8th & 22nd at 9:00 am.
- Morrison Celebration of Life August 12th at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Family Center.
- WSL Baby Shower August 16th at 10:00 am
- AppleCrate Craft Fair August 31st—September 2nd.
- St Luke's Theological Academy courses begin in September.

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
solli deo gloria.