

Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

September 2023
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 23 Issue 9

Sin and Stupidity, or Sin-Induced Stupidity

**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 Pastor Mark:
619-463-6633 or office-sllc@att.net

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In his commentary on the book of Genesis, in relation to the following verse Luther points out how stupid we sinners can become, especially when we try to lie our way out of a sticky predicament. Think about your own life. What kind of “excuses” have you conjured up in your past? In relation to Genesis 3:10, Luther writes:

“And he [Adam] said, ‘I heard your voice in Paradise, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I concealed myself.’”

“Just as Adam stupidly began to flee, so he answers most stupidly; so thoroughly had sin deprived him of all discernment and good sense. He wants to inform God that he is naked—God, who created him naked. By this action he confuses himself, betrays and condemns himself with his own mouth. He says that he heard God’s voice and was afraid. But had he not heard the voice of the Lord before, when He forbade him to eat of the forbidden tree? Why was he not afraid then? Why did he not hide then? Why did he stand glad and upright when he saw and heard God before him? But now he is terrified by the rustling of a leaf (Lev. 26:36). It follows, therefore, that Adam is no longer the same that he was, but that he has undergone a change and has become a different person, one who is looking for a fictitious reason as his excuse. How can it be true that the reason for his fear is the voice, when previously he did not fear the voice but heard God with delight?

“Let us learn, then, that this perversion and stupidity always accompany sin and that sinners accuse themselves by their excuses and betray themselves by their defense, especially before God. It is in just

Campus Closed
September 4
Sunday School
September 10 at 10:30am
WSL meeting
September 16 at 10:00 am
Bible Study
The Book of Hebrews
September 20 at 10:00am
St Luke’s Theological Academy
Beginning in September

this way that Adam here wants to cover his offense and deck himself out. He says that the reason for his flight was not that he had sinned, but that he had heard the voice of the Lord and was frightened by it and became ashamed because he was naked. The poor fellow does not reflect that he did not have this fear previously and that he had not been ashamed because of his nakedness. Since it was something that God had created, why is he afraid on account of that which God made? Naked he had previously walked about in the sight of God and of all the creatures in Paradise, assured of God's goodwill and delighting in God. Now he is ashamed because he is naked; he flees from God and conceals himself. All these facts are sure proofs by which Adam condemns himself and betrays his sin.

"In the same way the ungodly will condemn themselves at the Last Judgment, when the dark recesses of human hearts will be revealed and, as though in open books, the evil deeds of every single being will be read. God indeed knows that Adam sinned and that he is guilty of death. However, He questions him so that by his own witness he himself may prove himself guilty of having committed sin; for he is fleeing from God, something which in itself is a sin, just as it is a good deed to take one's refuge in God. Although Adam hopes to be able to cover his sin with a lie, he brings this witness against himself when he says that the reason for his flight was the voice of the Lord and his own nakedness.

"Let us learn, therefore, that this is the nature of sin: unless God immediately provides a cure and calls the sinner back, he flees endlessly from God and, by excusing his sin with lies, heaps sin upon sin until he arrives at blasphemy and despair. Thus sin by its own gravitation always draws with it another sin and brings on eternal destruction, till finally the sinful person would rather accuse God than acknowledge his own sin. Adam should have said: "Lord, I have sinned." But he does not do this. He accuses God of sin and says in reality: "Thou, Lord, hast sinned. For I would have remained holy in Paradise after eating of the fruit if Thou hadst kept

"Thus when man has been accused of sin by God, he does not acknowledge his sin but rather accuses God and transfers his guilt from himself to the Creator. The outcome is that in this way sin grows endlessly unless God through His mercy grants His help. This wickedness and utmost stupidity Adam regards as supreme wisdom. He has become so confused by his fright that he does not realize what he is saying or what he is doing, and by excusing himself he brings the most serious charges against himself and increases his sin to huge proportions.

"However, we must not think that this happened to Adam alone. We, each one of us, do the same thing; our nature does not permit us to act otherwise after we have become guilty of sin. We all prefer to accuse God rather than to acknowledge it before God. Adam does the same thing when he declares that God's voice is the reason for his fleeing. Therefore he maintains that God is the author of his flight. This sin now follows the other. For how would he, who shows no consideration to God, his Creator, show consideration to what God has created? He blames God for his nakedness as if He were the Creator of something shameful. Through sin he has become so crazed that he turns the glory of nakedness into a disgrace of the Creator" (LW 1:174-176).

Sacraments All Around

Sunday, 11 July, was a wonderful day for a couple of St. Luke's younger people. First, Madilyn Mae Lindstrom was baptized. Therein, her sins were forgiven, and she became a member of the body of Christ at St. Luke's. Then, later in that same service, Lillian Heilpern received the Lord's Supper for the first time (see photo). Through the promises of his word and the reality of the power of his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead, in both sacraments Jesus was present forgiving sins and giving the promise of eternal life. It was an exciting day at St. Luke's.



Thanks to Pastor Gleason

We wish to thank Pastor Gleason Snashall for covering for Pastor Mark on 30 July and on 06 August. Pastor Gleason brings many gifts to St. Luke's, and we are grateful that he can share them in many aspects of St. Luke's congregational life.

SLTA Autumn Courses

St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA) will be offering at least three courses this autumn. "Foundations of the Christian Faith" taught by Mark Menacher, "Old Testament" taught by Pastor Paul Willweber, and a new course "American Lutheran History" taught by Pastor James Huenink. Each ten week course meets for 90 minutes per week. Information regarding course times and starting days is forthcoming.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, 23 July, St. Luke's welcomed the following people into membership: Dianne Durrenberger, Timothy Smith and Jeannie Meranda, and Ken and Sandee Handy. The congregation is delighted that these fellow members of the Priesthood of All Believers have opted to utilize their time and talents in the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ at St. Luke's. Brief biographies are hopefully forthcoming.



(L to R) Ken & Sandee Hand, Dianne Durrenberger, Jeannine Meranda, and Timothy Smith.

Women of St. Luke's Thoughts

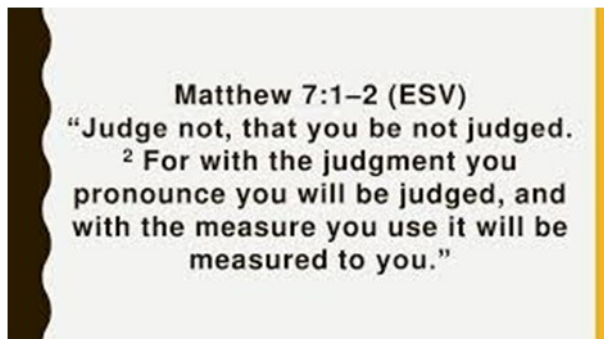
Walk a Mile in HIS Shoes

Jesus walked 3,125 miles in his three-year ministry (according to Jason Kramme of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, MN). Mr. Kramme goes on to say, "That is 8 miles a day, everyday for those three years – in sandals or bare feet!" Are you ready to follow? Most marathon trainers do not work out that much!

Most of us have heard the saying, "Walk a mile in his shoes," before you say or do something – it's best to learn about that person's life or situation. This famous quote came from a poem by Mary Lathrap, who wrote it in a book of poems in 1895 (*The Poems and Written Addresses of Mary T. Lathrap*). Miss Lathrap actually used the term "moccasins" but we get the drift. That saying has stuck with us since that time.



Jesus had another way of putting it, "Judge not, lest ye be judged (Matthew 7:1-2). How many dozens (maybe hundreds) of times did I hear that quote when I was a child?!



"But it's not fair!" I would say to my mother!! "He's getting away with something!!" I remember her soft answer, "You don't know that! You need to mind your Ps and Qs and do what YOU know is RIGHT! And do NOT worry about the other person." Oh, my goodness, there was a lot of pouting, and probably even some crying back during those growing up days. Not judging others? That was /is a difficult task. Shouldn't s/he be getting in trouble for what s/he did?? Isn't that person "paying the price?" Because I KNOW I CERTAINLY DID, thought pouty five-year-old me.

What is the "price"? Jesus knows. Jesus paid the price for us all!

Dear Heavenly Father, You know the price that Your Son paid for our sins. Thank you for sending Him to pay the ultimate price. We know we can never be good-enough to come to YOU, Heavenly Father, but through Jesus' blood we are saved. Thank you, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Submitted by Karen Skullerud



WSL Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 10:00am

WSL will begin a new Bible Study of the book of Hebrews. The study books are available. Bring your Bible and your thinking cap. The first Wednesday the study will be held in the Library. Then the study will be in the Lower Level. You won't want to miss the start of the new Hebrews Bible Study. Refreshments Provided.

Ladies Retreat

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9:00 am-1:30 pm

- A special day has been set aside for YOU. (No charge)
- A lovely meal.
- An encouraging speaker.
- A time to renew old friendships and make new ones.
- An opportunity to learn more about some of the ministries offered at St. Luke's.
- Please sign our Guest Roster so we have ample food and a personalized name plaque for you.



WSL Meeting

Saturday September 16, 2023 at

10:00 am

This Quarterly meeting will be held in the Lower Level.



Music Notes

By Richard Deal

Hi Friends,

I am happy that the Fall season is here, and the choir will be singing again. You are invited to come and join us at our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 pm. We learn music, have fun and are a vital element of the worship services here on Sundays. There are no auditions or obligations to come and find out if the choir is for you! We look forward to seeing you in the Fireside room at 5:30 pm!

Musically in Christ, Richard

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F
 T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N
 F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T
 R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I
 E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L
 D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A
 E S N A I T A L A G F O E F U
 E A P L X L Q V D S D N X S B
 M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S
 G O L I A T H Z R Y C M W K I
 R D F I E J U I T P L Y P T C
 A E R Q L L D Z T A Q Y A E T
 C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C
 E G N X Y K G P O L A D S Y J
 B K T O Q L R D L Y W Q R X Y

FAITH
 GOLIATH
 GRACE
 MOSES
 SERPENT
 DEUTERONOMY

GALILEE
 GOOD FRIDAY
 PAUL
 LAST SUPPER
 GALATIANS
 ETERNAL LIFE

CHURCH
 BETHLEHEM
 REDEEM
 SANCTIFY
 PSALMS
 PARABLE

WORSHIP TEXT

September 3rd

14th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26

Second Lesson — Romans 12:9-21

Gospel — Matthew 16:21-28

September 10th

15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 32:1-7

Second Lesson — Romans 13:1-10

Gospel — Matthew 18:1-20

September 17th

16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:1-12

Second Lesson — Romans 14:1-12

Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

September 24th

17th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson — Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm 27:1-9

Second Lesson — Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 20:1-16

Happy Birthday

Cathy Floegel	September 4th
Paige Yerger	September 4th
Peter Mylerberg	September 5th
Patti Boekamp	September 6th
Karen Skullerud	September 6th
Ted Olsen	September 8th
Tania Salas	September 13th
Ken Handy	September 17th
C.E. Crossley	September 20th
Shirley Crossley	September 24th
John Busker	September 25th

Happy Anniversary

Dick & Martha Applegate
September 13th

Stewart Mossman & Suzanne Miller
September 16th

Jim & Dawn Dolan
September 27th

Gary & Sarah Scott
September 28th

Did we miss your special event? Please let Debbie in the office know your birthday or anniversary so we can honor you and yours next year!

Coffee Hour Hosting

Please sign up in the Lower Level Kitchen to host Coffee Hour. No coffee making skills needed, just bring you favorite treats to share.



September 3: Jennifer Killion

September 10: Pat Kettler

September 17: Open

September 24: Open

September Prayer Calendar

Your Word, A Lamp Unto My Feet

1	Isaiah 55:6-13	<p>I Know My Faith Is Founded</p> <p>I know my faith is founded On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord; And this my faith confessing, Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.</p> <p>Our reason cannot fathom The truth of God profound; Who trusts in human wisdom Relies on shifting ground. God's word is all sufficient, It makes divinely sure; And trusting in the wisdom, My faith shall rest secure!</p> <p>Increase my faith, dear Savior, For Satan seeks by night and day To rob me of this treasure and Take this hope of bliss away. But, Lord, with You beside me, I shall be undismayed; And led by Your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid! Abide with me, O Savior, A firmer faith bestow; Then I shall bid defiance To every evil foe.</p> <p>Hymn #587 Verses 1,2 LSB</p>
2	Proverbs 2:1-10	
3	Psalm 119:9-16	
4	John 1:1-17	
5	Psalm 119:17-24	
6	Psalm 119:25-32	
7	Colossians 3:12-17	
8	Psalm 119:33-40	
9	Psalm 119:41-48	
10	Matthew 4:1-11	
11	Psalm 119:129-136	
12	Psalm 119:57-64	
13	James 1:19-25	
14	John 17:13-19	
15	Psalm 119:169-176	
16	Ephesians 6:13-18	
17	Psalm 130:1-8	
18	Luke 6:46-49	
19	Romans 4:16-25	
20	Psalm 119:97-104	
21	Psalm 119:105-112	
22	Philippians 2:12-16	
23	Luke 10:38-41	
24	1 Thessalonians 2:10-13	
25	Psalm 25:4-10	
26	2 Corinthians 1:18-22	
27	Acts 20:25-32	
28	Hebrews 4:12-16	
29	1 Peter 1:17-23	
30	John 17:13-21	

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TEAMS

	Reader	<i>Laurie Floren 9/3, 9/10, 9/17 Doris Snashall 9/24</i>
3rd	Altar Guild	<i>Colleen Olsen</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Pastor Menacher</i>
	Communion Assistant	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Ted Olsen & Cheri Murrell</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Acolytes	
10th	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Communion Assistant	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Dianne Durrenberger</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Greeter	<i>JoAnn Hendrickson</i>
17th	Prayers of the People	<i>Cheri Murrell</i>
	Communion Assistant	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistants — Wine	<i>Judi Cole & Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Bob Gray</i>
	Acolytes	
24th	Prayers of the People	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Communion Assistant	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Communion Assistant — Wine	<i>Cheri Murrell & Terry East</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel</i>



24/7 Emergency Service 7574 University Ave La Mesa, CA 91942


call us at (619) 667-4328 <https://jacksonfoster.com/contact-us/>

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St. Luke's Newsletter!

*Our monthly newsletter is
printed free because of gen-
erous people / companies
that advertise.*

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 am Worship	4 Office/Campus Closed 	5 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:30 am Counters 9:00 am Project Day	6	7 8:00 am Tai Chi	8 9:00am-5:00 pm Applectrate Craft Fair	9 9:00 am Altar Guild
10 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	11 1:30 pm Counters	12 8:00 am Tai Chi Fireside Room	13	14 8:00 am Tai Chi Fireside Room	15	16 9:00 am Altar Guild 10:00 am WSL
17 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 4:00 pm SLTA	18 9:30 am Counters	19 8:00 am Tai Chi Fireside Room 7:00 pm SLTA	20 10:00 am WSL Bible Study—Library	21 8:00 am Tai Chi Fireside Room	22	23 9:00 am Altar Guild
24 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 4:00 pm SLTA	25 1:30 pm Counters	26 8:00 am Tai Chi 9:00 am Project Day 7:00 pm SLTA	27	28 8:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm SLTA	29	30 9:00 am-1:30 pm WSL Ladies Retreat

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Dated Material
September 2023

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.
- Happy Labor Day; office & campus closed September 4th.
- Project Days Tuesdays September 5th & 26th.
- Tai Chi Tuesdays & Thursday at 8:00 am. 9/12, 9/12, 9/19, 9/21 meet in the Fireside room.
- Choir Practice begins Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 pm.
- Sunday School begins September 10th at 10:30 am
- St. Luke's Theological Academy begins September 17th, 19th, 26th
- Lower Level is unavailable Sept 11-22.

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.