



# 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)

September 2025  
Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 25 Issue 9

**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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**Men's Group is cancelled  
for the month of September.**

## ***Back to School?***

In the "old days" long before school districts had such varied academic years and vacation breaks, going back to school generally took place after Labor Day. Correspondingly, the "back to school" sales would fall in August. Nowadays, to accommodate the various return to school dates, "back to school" sales probably need to start in July, if not in June!

Likewise, as the starting dates seem all over the place, so do the ending dates. Viewed differently, perhaps it is actually the case that all schools have become year-round activities broken up by varying lengths of vacation. In other words, school today never seems to end! Unfortunately, that may make school a form of purgatory.

Another aspect of school is finishing altogether, usually either by graduating or by dropping out. Either way, there is often a great sense of relief being done with something tedious if not extremely laborious. The "work" aspect of school these days, however, seems to be "problematic," and so no efforts are spared to make school work fun, interesting, exciting, etc. That same trend is also visible in churches' efforts to offer vacation Bible school (VBS). When I was a child, we had to learn VBS memory verses not with songs and games but rather with stone tablets, hammers, and chisels! Maybe that is why my theological studies got off to a rocky start.

Unfortunately, in the church the hope of being done with school or learning frequently takes place well before high school graduation. The break with church learning, which is not Christmas, spring, or ski break, often happens when completing catechism/confirmation. Now, it is highly likely

that after spending two years of learning with me our confirmands may never want to see a church again. That said, this phenomenon of “dropping out of church” pervades most if not all Lutheran churches, and as many of us know, it is nothing new.

For many of us who have not “graduated church” after confirmation, unfortunately the learning slows or stops altogether. So, ask yourself, do you know all Ten Commandments? What benefits does baptism give? Who receives the Lord’s Supper worthily? Perhaps more importantly, who’s on first? (Oops, wrong line of questioning.) So, how well did you do with those three questions on the mini catechism self-administered test?

If many or most of us are not terribly conversant with Luther’s Small Catechism, how well are we doing with the Bible? For example, is the Book of Hezekiah in the Old or New Testament? Likewise, in which Testament is the Book of Hebrews? On that topic, what is a Testament, and how does one know whether it is truly older or newer and why?

For many or most of us, our understanding of and disposition towards “school” and “learning” in the church has been coloured negatively by our experiences with secular schools. As important as schooling is for one’s future endeavours, there is a certain amount of drudgery which unfortunately also affects our disposition toward continued learning but especially at church. So, is there a difference between school and church learning, and if so, is it important?

At what age did you start school? How old were you when you finished high school? Do you remember when you finished learning a trade or graduating from college? If you have further or advanced trainings and degrees, why did you undertake those? With such learning experiences under your belt, how long will their cumulative effects benefit you? In other words, how long do you expect to live?

Our learning in the church has a much greater scope than secular school learning. Of the many things which we do learn in church, we often recognize that many of these are extremely useful for our everyday lives. If we listen to and follow the guidance, directives, and rules of the Bible, we will inevitably be “better” persons, children, parents, spouses, citizens, employers, employees, etc. Yet, we all know non-believers who do well and even excel in all those roles and capacities. To the dismay of some, scripture cannot be considered a handbook for material, financial, familial, or societal good fortune and well-being. Even with these scriptural benefits, our church learning concludes when we graduate from our earthly life.

Fortunately, the most important learning which we undertake in church does not stop with the undertaker. In church through scripture, preaching, and teaching, song, and prayer we learn how God created everything. We learn how humanity fell into its relentless state of sinfulness. When even God’s guidance, directives, and rules failed to offer eternal hope, God sent his Son, Jesus, to mediate a new life for us with God, his Father, through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. Despite his ascension to the “right hand of God,” Christ is nonetheless intimately intertwined with every aspect of our lives. He is present in his word. He makes us part of his body in baptism, daily drowning the old sinner in us and raising up a new, little Christ. Then, he continually makes himself present in his own body and blood reminding us of the forgiveness of our sin whenever we celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Contrary to worldly thinking, our learning in the church is not designed to help us in either temporal or eternal advancement. Our learning is designed to equip us to share the gift of salvation with fellow sinners both competently and confidently. There are many opportunities for learning at St. Luke’s which entail varying degrees of time and depth. The children and adults just finished a week of VBS. Children’s Sunday school will resume mid-September.

Catechism also resumes mid-September. The adult Sunday school class has taken only a one month break in August this year. The WSL Bible study, to which all are invited, meets two Wednesday mornings each month. Finally, St. Luke's Theological Academy (STLA) is offering four 10 (ten) week courses which also start mid-September. That is a lot of learning opportunities for church learning!

You are invited to come "back to school" this autumn to continue to become ever more competent and confident sharing the gift of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Of the above listed opportunities and courses of learning, which will you choose?

## Sunday School Resumes

**on 14 September**

Sunday school for children and adults at St. Luke's resumes on 14 September. Sunday school begins at roughly 10:30 am for children and adults. If you are interested in helping teach Sunday school, please contact Whitney Utley or Pastor Mark.



## St. Luke's Theological Academy

This autumn, St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA) is offering the following ten week courses on the following days and times:

American Lutheran History

+ Pastor James Huenink

+ Starts Sunday, 14 September, 3:00-4:30 pm

- Registration fee: \$25.00

How to Read/Understand the Bible

+ Pastor Paul Willweber

+ Starts Sunday, 14 September, 3:00-4:30 pm

- Registration fee: \$25.00

Foundations of the Christian Faith

+ Pastor Mark Menacher, PhD

+ Starts Sunday, 14 September, 4:00-5:30 pm

+ Registration fee: FREE!

Worship: What, How, and Why

+ Pastor Brian Hamer

+ Starts Sunday, 21 September, 4:00-5:30 pm

+ Registration fee: \$25.00

(This course is offered in-person and via Zoom)

You can register for any of these courses by accessing St. Luke's website (click on the Academy menu, then click on the Courses button), by calling the church office, or simply by arriving on the first (or second or perhaps even third) week of class. Previous participants of all these courses rate them extremely highly, except of course for Pastor Mark's course. Sadly, he has to pay people to take that one!

Dear Women of St. Luke's,

I just spent ten days visiting with my lifelong friends. We three met behind our Mothers' skirts when we were each four years old. Throughout the years, we have always stayed in contact – sharing our joys and sorrows, our hopes and dreams, our successes and valiant attempts. This recent in-person visit was such a treasured time. We talked and laughed and cried and talked some more – thoroughly enjoying sharing story after story. What a privilege to listen to each other and to share past escapades, to grieve together the hurts and losses of life and to celebrate the gifts God has poured into each of our lives. Such amazing testimonies! Oh, how those conversations filled our hearts and blessed and augmented our lifelong friendships.



Throughout the Bible, God instructed His people to remember the events of their lives and to share them with their children and each other.

**Exodus 13:3** says -- *So Moses said to the people, 'Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand.'*

**Deuteronomy 8:2** says – *Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.*

In **Psalms 77:11 – 12** it says – *I will remember the deeds of the Lord. Yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.*

**Psalms 78:4** states – *We will not hide them from our descendents. We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.*





As I look at each face around our church on Sunday mornings, I realize that there are so many stories and testimonies that I have never heard. We each hold so many untold stories. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a **Story Telling Saturday** to simply gather and share bits and pieces of our stories? I believe we have much to learn from each others' lives and experiences. What stories do you have? How has God helped and blessed you? What a blessing it would be to share those testimonies!

Watch for an announcement and plan to attend a **Story Telling Saturday** soon. I am so eager to listen and share and grow together.

In His service,

*Laurie*

## *Coffee Hour Hosts for September*

*September 7th* — Pending host

*September 14th* — Terry East & Debbie Deal

*September 21st* — Maddie Lindstom & Lori Ann Linn

*September 28th* — Pending host

We love gathering together for fellowship after worship,  
but we need your help to keep Coffee Hour going!

Please consider signing up to host or assist.  
It's a simple way to serve and a great blessing to our church family.



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TEXTS

### Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— **September 7, 2025**

First Lesson — Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Psalm 1

Second Lesson — Philemon 1–21

Gospel — Luke 14:25–35

### Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— **September 14, 2025**

First Lesson — Ezekiel 34:11–24

Psalm 119:169–176

Second Lesson — 1 Timothy 1:12–17

Gospel — Luke 15:1–10

### Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— **September 21, 2025**

First Lesson — Amos 8:4–7

Psalm 113

Second Lesson — 1 Timothy 2:1–15

Gospel — Luke 16:1–15

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— **September 28, 2025**

First Lesson — Amos 6:1–7

Psalm 146

Second Lesson — 1 Timothy 6:11–19

Gospel — Luke 16:19–31

## September Birthdays



Betty Murray	9/2
Catherine Floegel	9/4
Paige Yerger	9/4
Peter Mylerberg	9/5
Patti Boekamp	9/6
Karen Skullerud	9/6
Theodore "Ted" Olsen	9/8
Terri Proctor	9/12
Tania Salas	9/13
Nicole Tabor	9/13
Charles Crossley	9/20
Shirley Crossley	9/24
Bob Gray	9/24
John Busker	9/25



Dawn & Jim Dolan	9/27
Suzanne & Stewart Mossman	9/16
Sarah & Gary Scott	9/28

## SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

### *“How Firm a Foundation”*

1	Psalm 33:1-5	<p><i>How firm a foundation O Saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith In His excellent word! What more can He say Than to you He has said Who into the savior For refuge have fled?</i></p> <p><i>Fear not, I am with you, Oh be not dismayed, For I am your God And will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you And cause you to stand, Upheld by my righteous Omnipotent hand</i></p> <p><i>When through fiery trails Your pathway shall lie My grace, all sufficient, Shall be your supply The flames will not hurt you; I only design Your dross to consume And your gold to refine.</i></p> <p><i>Lutheran Service Book Hymn 728</i></p>
2	2 Samuel 22:1-4	
3	Psalm 46:1-7	
4	Psalm 119:41-43	
5	Deuteronomy 22:1-4	
6	Psalm 119:129-133	
7	Ephesians 2:4-16	
8	Colossians 3:16-17	
9	Romans 6:5-8	
10	Romans 8:26-28	
11	Psalm 22:21-25	
12	2 Corinthians 1:8-13	
13	2 Corinthians 4:16-18	
14	Psalm 145:13-21	
15	Proverbs 2:1-6	
16	Matthew 11:25-30	
17	Psalm 138:1-8	
18	Galatians 3:23-29	
19	I John 3:1-3	
20	Isaiah 55:10-13	
21	Romans 8:15-17	
22	Romans 8:18-25	
23	I Peter 1:3-9	
24	I Peter 5:6-11	
25	II Peter 1:3-4	
26	Hebrews 4:14-15	
27	Romans 5:6-11	
28	2 Corinthians 4:7-12	
29	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	
30	Jude 24-25	



## **WORSHIP TEAMS**

	Reader(s)	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Altar Guild	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Laurie Floren &amp; Jillian Barnard</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>Stasha Raschtschenia and Audrey Utley</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>14th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jennifer Killion &amp; Terry East</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Randy Engel &amp; Carol Prior</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>21st</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard &amp; Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Kim &amp; David Emerson</i>
	<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Phoenix Griffin and Volunteer</i>
	<b>Sound Tech</b>	<i>Kendrick Jennings</i>
	<b>Counter</b>	<i>Judi Cole</i>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Communion Assistant —bread</b>	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	<b>Communion Assistants—wine</b>	<i>Cheri Murrell &amp; Terry East</i>
	<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<i>Ted Olsen</i>
	<b>Projectionist</b>	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	<b>Usher Team</b>	<i>Gary &amp; Carol Prior</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>

# September 2025

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

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5150 WILSON ST.**

**LA MESA, CA 91942**

Phone: 619-463-6633

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NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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EL CAJON, CA  
PERMIT NO 262

Dated Material  
September 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.*