



Parish Rebuilder

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

www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org

August 2024
Monthly Newsletter
Volume 24 Issue 8

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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Indulgences Galore!

As many, if not most, Lutherans are aware, a key aspect of the Reformation was Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses against Indulgences. In the Roman church's way of thinking, if one sins, one has two problems. First, one violates God's ordinances, and second, in such sinning one creates some type of damage which needs to be addressed.

So, if Sally steals Billy's basketball, Sally has broken the commandment "Thou shalt not steal," and Billy is deprived of his basketball. So, Sally needs to go to her priest and confess her sin of stealing for which she will receive absolution. Billy, however, is still in need of a basketball. So, the priest may assign Sally the task of returning Billy's basketball or of having Sally buy Billy a new basketball or of having Sally do some sort of penance, such as saying ten "Our Fathers" (the Lord's Prayer) or perhaps 15 "Hail Mary's," which is more appropriate if Sally had stolen Billy's football. With the last option, Billy is no better off, but Sally has "made up" for the damage to Billy.

Now, if Sally would have died before making restitution for depriving Billy of his basketball, Sally would not pass Go and would not collect \$200. Instead, Sally would end up in purgatory. Purgatory is a hell like place where one is "purged" of one's remaining deficiencies in order to be pure enough to gain entrance into heaven. The difference between purgatory and hell is that people do not get out of hell, not even with a "Get Out of Hell" free card. This is so because the pope has a monopoly over purgatory but not over hell.

Thankfully, in AD 1300 the Vatican started issuing Jubilee indulgences every 25 years, whether people needed them or not. The Vatican can also issue indulgences at other times. An indulgence reduces one's time in purgatory. Indulgences can be earned for oneself or can be applied to others languishing in purgatory. This is good news, unless one believes that Jesus Christ in his life, death, and resurrection has secured our salvation which through the gospel is given to sinners by grace alone through faith alone as a free gift. Viewed from that position, an indulgence by contrast is a scam which effectively negates Christ and his salvific actions. Notably, the Vatican does not let such things like God, Scripture, and so forth get in its way.

This is a particularly good year for indulgences. On 13 May 2024, the Vatican announced the "Decree on the granting of the Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis." One can earn this indulgence by making "I. Pilgrimages," by making "II. Pious visits to sacred places," and by doing "III. Works of mercy and penance." Under the last category,

"The Jubilee Plenary Indulgence can also be obtained through initiatives that put into practice, in a concrete and generous way, the spirit of penance which is, in a sense, the soul of the Jubilee. In particular the penitential nature of Friday can be rediscovered through abstaining, in a spirit of penance, at least for one day of the week from futile distractions (real but also virtual distractions, for example, the use of the media and/or social networks), from superfluous consumption (for example by fasting or practising abstinence according to the general norms of the Church and the indications of the Bishops), as well as by donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor; ..." Nowadays, one cannot buy indulgences, like in Luther's day, but if one makes a financial donation, one gets credit as good as a purchase, so to speak!

For those who cannot wait until 2025 to get an indulgence, on 09 July 2024, the Vatican issued the "Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of the Indulgence on the occasion of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly." In this case, the Pope "graciously grants the Plenary Indulgence from the heavenly treasures of the Church, under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity, will participate on 28 July 2024, on the occasion of the Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, in the various functions that will be held throughout the world, a Plenary Indulgence that may also be applied as a suffrage to the souls in Purgatory." As it is now August, did you miss this chance to earn this indulgence?

In short, in 2024 indulgences galore await you and your loved ones, even those in purgatory! All you need to do is to cast Christ aside and do something helpful to effect your own salvation or that of another or both! Being such a savvy saviour yourself makes you a "little Christ" If you are a Christ, then you are as good as God, and that is exactly what the Serpent promised to Adam and Eve, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

References:

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_penitenzieria-ap_20240513_norme-indulgenza-giubileo2025_en.html

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_penitenzieria-ap_20240709_decreto-indulgenze-nonni_en.html

SLTA Fall Course Offering

St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA) is offering three courses this autumn: 1) "Worship: What, How, and Why" taught by Pastor Paul Willweber which starts Sunday, 15 September 3:00-4:30 pm (\$25 registration fee); 2) "Introduction to the New Testament" taught by Pastor James Huenink and starts on Sunday, 29 September 3:00-4:30 pm (\$25 registration fee), and "Foundations of the Christian Faith" taught by Pastor Mark Menacher, starting on Sunday, 15 September 4:00-5:30 pm (no registration fee). You can register online on St. Luke's website or by ringing the church office or by arriving in-person on the starting day(s). (Strike while the iron is hot, or you could have wrinkly clothes.)



Sunday School Resumes on 15 September

Sunday school for children resumes on 15 September. St. Luke's uses its own Genuinely Lutheran Sunday School Curriculum. This curriculum is designed over the course of grades one through six to lead children twice through the main Bible stories of the Old and New Testaments. If you are interested in teaching or helping with children's Sunday school in the autumn, please see Pastor Mark or Tania Salas. The church thanks Pastor Gleason for continuing to teach the adult Sunday school class throughout the summer.



August

August 4th — Tom Stubbs &

Pat Kettler

August 11th — Brown Family

August 18th — TBD

August 25th — TBD

Volunteers are needed to provide treats on August 18th and 25th.

PLEASE SIGN UP!



Welcome Sparrow Academy

As many are aware, if only by the unfavorable media coverage in the San Diego Union-Tribune, the Sparrow Academy (SA) needed to relocate and as of the beginning of July 2024, has assumed the tenancy in St. Luke's school facility. SA is a charter school under the auspices of the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. SA educates following the principles of the Waldorf model of teaching and learning. SA administrators, faculty, and staff seem very excited to have a new home on St. Luke's campus. SA thanks the volunteers from St. Luke's who have offered time and energy to help SA with the monumental task of moving into the school premises.



Women of St. Luke's (WSL) - Ministry Donations

A meeting was held on April 24, 2024 to vote on the ministries that will be receiving \$400.00 each from ESL in 2024. They are:

1. **Third Ave. Charitable Organization (TACO)**
2. **Pregnancy Care Clinic—El Cajon**
3. **Mexican Medical Ministries**
4. **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)**
5. **San Diego Rescue Mission**
6. **Lutheran Bible Translators**
7. **Lutheran Social Services**
8. **Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (LCMS) - Romania and the Baltics Mission (Pastor Andrew Fedder)**

Fedder Family Newsletter



We are back safe and sound in Romania after spending the last few months in the US visiting supporters. It was great seeing family, friends and meeting so many of you but it is good to be back sleeping in our own beds and getting back into our routine. Now that we are home our children continue to make friends with the Romanian children on our street and this has been a real blessing. Not only are the kids starting to have friends here and getting invited to birthday parties and the like, but Megan and I are getting to meet more of our neighbors. This has led to a number of good theological conversations and opportunities to share the Gospel. I am hopeful that eventually I may get a few of our neighbors to come to church with us. Please pray for this endeavor.

The summer tends to be a slow time in Romania. Like in the US many people go on vacations, whether that means heading to Greece, the Black Sea or the family village. We have also had a major heat wave. Air conditioning is not common here so the heat has slowed down life as people try to stay cool. So, not much new is going on right now. I continue to preach and visit churches, but no new projects. That being said we have some big plans for expanding the work here in Balkans but I don't want to announce anything yet. Expect some exciting news this fall.

Christ bless you all,

Pastor Andrew Michael Johnson Fedder

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



AUGUST'S WORSHIP TEXTS

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

— August 4, 2024

First Lesson — Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 145:10-21

Second Lesson — Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel — John 6:22-35

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

— August 11, 2024

First Lesson — 1 Kings 19:1-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Second Lesson —

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Gospel — John 6:35-51

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

— August 18, 2024

First Lesson — Proverbs 9:1-10

Psalm 34:12-22

Second Lesson — Ephesians 5:6-21

Gospel — John 6:51-69

Fourteenth Sunday after Pente-

cost — August 25, 2024

First Lesson — Isaiah 29:11-19

Psalm 14

Second Lesson — Ephesians 5:22-33

Gospel — Mark 7:1-13



Jody Iverson	8/1
Karen Parcells	8/4
Tavis Brown	8/5
Kathy Coleman	8/13
Nancy Kearns	8/18
Tom Stubbs	8/27
Dana Towers	8/28
Marie Handley	8/29
Alice Boe	8/31

Happy Anniversary

Gary & Kathy Coleman 8/31

AUGUST PRAYER CALENDAR

“Great I Thus Faithfulness”

1	Isaiah 11:1-5	
2	Hebrews 2:14-18	<i>Great is Thy faithfulness,</i>
3	Psalm 89:1-8	<i>O God my Father;</i>
4	Psalm 57:1-11	<i>There is no shadow of turning with Thee.</i>
5	Lamentations 5:12-24	<i>Thou changes not:</i>
6	I Thessalonians 5:12-24	<i>Thy compassions, they fail not;</i>
7	Psalm 146:5-10	<i>As Thou hast been,</i>
8	Hebrew 10:19-25	<i>Thou forever wilt be.</i>
9	Psalm 146:5-10	
10	Deuteronomy 32:1-4	<i>Parson for sin</i>
11	Psalm 25:1-16	<i>And peace that endureth,</i>
12	Psalm 119:89-96	<i>Thine own dear presence</i>
13	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	<i>To cheer and to guide;</i>
14	Psalm 9:7-12	<i>Strength for today</i>
15	I Peter 1:3-9	<i>And bight hope for tomorrow,</i>
16	Hebrew 3:1-6	<i>Blessings all mine,</i>
17	Psalm 92:1-4	<i>And ten thousand beside!</i>
18	I Corinthians 10:9-13	
19	Psalm 91:1-4	<i>Great is they faithfulness!</i>
20	Psalm 91:1-4	<i>Great is thy faithfulness!</i>
21	Hebrews 11:8-11	<i>Moring by Morning</i>
22	Psalm 36:5-12	<i>New mercies I see:</i>
23	2 Corinthians 1:18-22	<i>All I have needed</i>
24	Hebrews 6:13-20	<i>Thy hand hath provided;</i>
25	Psalm 85:1-13	<i>Great is thy faithfulness</i>
26	Psalm 85:1-13	<i>Lord, unto me!</i>
27	Isaiah 55:6-13	
28	Psalm 121:1-8	
29	I Corinthians 1:39	
30	Psalm 100:1-5	
31	Romans 8:31-39	

Hymn 809

Versus 1 and 2

Lutheran Service Book

AUGUST WORSHIP TEAMS

Reader(s) *Laurie Floren*
Altar Guild *Terry East*

4th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Bob Urich</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Rick and Nola Godfrey</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Gleason Snashall</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>David and Kim Emerson</i>
11th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Kim Emerson</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Jennifer Killion and Jillian Barnard</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Randy Engel and Cherri Murrell</i>
18th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Bob Urich and Cherri Murrell</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Shirley Carrington</i>
	Usher Team	<i>David and Kim Emerson</i>
25th	Communion Assistant —bread	<i>Jillian Barnard</i>
	Communion Assistants—wine	<i>Kim Emerson and Jennifer Killion</i>
	Greeter	<i>Randy Engel</i>
	Prayers of the People	<i>Laurie Floren</i>
	Projectionist	<i>Gail Knippelmeyer</i>
	Usher Team	<i>Gary and Carol Prior</i>

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm AI- Anon	2	3 9:00 am AA
4 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:30 pm AI- Anon	5 5:00 pm AI- Anon	6 8:00a m Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	7 11:00 am Staff	8 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm AI- Anon	9	10 9:00 am AA
11 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:30 pm AI- Anon	12 5:00 pm AI- Anon	13 8:00a m Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	14 11:00 am Staff	15 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm AI- Anon	16	17 9:00 am AA
18 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:30 pm AI- Anon	19 5:00 pm AI- Anon	20 8:00a m Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	21 11:00 am Staff	22 8:00 am Tai Chi 12:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm AI- Anon 4-7 pm Craft Fair	23 9-5 pm Craft Fair	24 9:00 am AA 9-3 pm Craft Fair
25 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 6:30 pm AI- Anon	26 5:00 pm AI- Anon	27 8:00a m Tai Chi 9:30 am Project Day	28 11:00 am Staff 7:00 pm Service	29 8:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm AI- Anon	30	31 9:00 am AA

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 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.