



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos Lutheran
Church

Dec. 2018

Our Mission: "To know, accept and live the love of God and share it with others"

"Home for the Holidays"

San Diego Women's Chorus

December 9th at 4:00 p.m.

(See page 6)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Dec. 9th at 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Sun., Dec. 16th beginning at 5:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday,

December 16th at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24TH

5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Holy Communion Music and message especially tailored for children and families

7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Holy Communion with choir and instrumentalists

(Pre-service music begins at 6:30 p.m.)

San Marcos Lutheran Church

3419 Grand Avenue San Marcos, CA 92078

(760) 727-1509

smlc3419@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri.

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.sanmarcoslutheran.org

All are Welcome! As a community of the people of God, the members of San Marcos Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people, regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female." (Galatians 3:28)

Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

Sunday School Children Age 3-12

9:45—10:30 a.m.

Pastor David P. Jorstad Pastor Karla J. Halvorson

Office Manager: Margo Scarpelli Choir Dir.: Justine Hansen

Bookkeeper: Eunice Hanson Organist: Randall Sensmeier

Council Members

Kevin Bauder, President	Ludette McNicholls
Anne Voth, Vice President	Daniel Weis
Robin Rubin, Treasurer	Melinda Nelson
Therese Balbo, Secretary	Dan Norris
Marilyn Monell	Rick Shoup
Linda Breen	Cindy Angelini

Judith Moore, Dir. Music Emeritis

San Marcos Lutheran Preschool

(760)727-0326

www.smlcchild@sbcglobal.net

Ann Leong, Director

Teachers: Leilani Duran, Theresa Mohn,

Marit Greunke, Brittney Gibbs

The next Newsletter article deadline is Dec. 15th.



PLEASE CONTACT US!

We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits, and inform the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the Church Office (760)727-1509 when:

- A loved one or someone you know dies
- You, or someone you know, is ill or grieving
- You, or someone you know, is in the hospital
- to plan a baptism, wedding, or celebration
- You moved or your contact information has changed

If office is closed, and you have an urgent need, contact Pastor David:

home (760)798-1226, cell (619)917-2994

email: pastorjorstadsmc@yahoo.com

Pastor Karla:

home, (760)754-1413, cell, (858)442-6761,

email: pastorkarlasmlc@sbcglobal.net



**Food Pantry
Donations Needed**

**ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH FOOD PANTRY
COLLECTION IS DECEMBER 2ND**

DO NOT BE AFRAID

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11)

"'Do not be afraid,' said the angel. I fear death, the judgment of God, the world, hunger, and the like. The angel announces a Savior who will free us from fear." (Martin Luther)

Martin Luther knew fear. After his excommunication and refusal to recant the Emperor put him under the death sentence. The medieval world in which Luther lived was ridden with disease, the plague was feared by rich and poor alike. The principalities of Germany were under attack by the Turks. Martin Luther lived at a time in which he could have easily given into fear. Yet, Luther had another vision. He was captured by the gracious love of God. His faith was in the God made flesh, the Christ Child that is born for us.

The shepherds in Luke's story also knew fear. They were the lowest of the low on society's pecking order. They lived at a time when their own nation was under the military dictatorship of Rome. Yet, God's special messengers, the angels, came with a word of hope to these shepherds,

"Do Not Be Afraid...I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord."

You and I know fear. You or a loved one is ill. You face the end of a relationship. We live in a world torn apart by violence and terror. We know all too well that people wander our nation's streets hungry and homeless. We've watched reports of God's children around the globe who are refugees, forced to leave their homes because of violent oppression. How will we respond during times such as these?

Fear is our vulnerability. Instead, we must learn the spiritual discipline and habit of the scriptural command, **BE NOT AFRAID**. The gift of Christmas does not come to a perfect "Christmas Card" world. God's gift of the Christ Child is laid down in a manger in the midst of this broken world where we dwell. That's good news! This is our hope, this is our promise, this is our strength. Fear will easily overtake us if we don't keep our focus on God's Word made Flesh, the Christ Child, God's great gift to us that can finally address our deepest fears. We have God's Word, Jesus Christ, our Savior the only one who will free us from fear.

Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ, DO NOT FEAR. At times such as these I find great solace in the following prayer: O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p.76)

Peace in Christ,
Pastor David Jorstad

THE GOOD NEWS

Pastor Karla Halvorson

God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel

Tis the season to be jolly. I hope this is your favorite time of year, with your favorite activities, traditions, decorations, food, your favorite people. If that's the case, have a wonderful time!

But some of you aren't feeling so jolly this Christmas. There can be a lot of grief, unmet expectations and stress during this "Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

I struggle with this. I see myself failing to meet the expectations I set for myself and what I think others expect of me. I remember loved ones who have died this time of year, both family members and people in this family of faith. There are so many mixed emotions even as we try to make this season happy and bright.

It is good to celebrate. It's good to be with family and friends, and put forward our best efforts in music, food, entertaining, service and celebrating.

But that is not what this season is primarily about. This season is about Emmanuel, God is with us. That's what matters. That's what Christmas is all about.

Would it be possible to make "Emmanuel, God with us" the center of this season? How might the season be and feel different if we did?

Perhaps stress would be more manageable? Perhaps we would have kinder, gentler expectations of ourselves and others? Perhaps we would look around us a little more and notice how God shows up? Perhaps (and I speak to myself only) we would manage a little less and let things flow a little more?

I need a little Christmas, right this very minute, but I need Christmas in a gentle, kind, loving way, the way only God can deliver it.

No matter how you feel this Advent and Christmas season, we remind you that God is in you, God is for you, and God is with you, Emmanuel. May God hold you close.

Peace be with you, Pastor Karla



FROM YOUR TREASURER
End of Oct. 2018

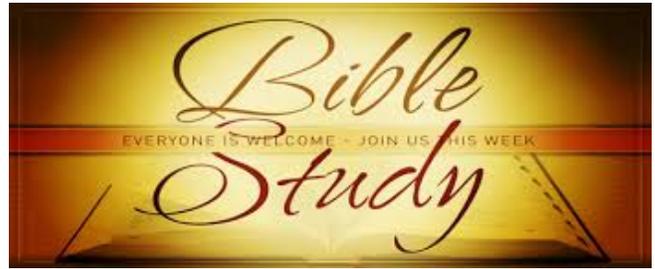
83.33% of year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$409,267	\$306,586	74.91%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$409,267	\$324,034	74.91%



TUES. MORNING BIBLE CLASS

led by Pastor Dell & Pastor Fran Olson
Tuesday, Dec 4th & 18th
10:00 a.m. in Luther Hall

We will continue our study of Genesis.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

led by Pastor David
Dec. 8th at 8:00 am

in Luther Hall

Phone Tom McDaniel for details
 (760)644-0506.

WOMEN'S BAGELS & BIBLE STUDY

Sat., Dec. 15th, 10:00 a.m.

in Luther Hall

SACRED PARENTING BIBLE STUDY

Sun., Dec. 16th 10:40 a.m.

in Conference Room

STOCK OPTIONS

Some families find it advantageous at this time of the year to gift the congregation with shares of appreciated stock. (Speak with your tax advisor to see if this works for you.) The church has a brokerage account to handle such transactions. If you need information on how to set this up speak with Robin Ruben, treasurer or Pastor David.

Progressive Dinner--Dec. 16

Beginning at the home of Lisa and Rob O'Carroll and concluding at the home of Susan Agonia. Sign ups through 12/16 at church.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

At the end of October, expenses exceeded income in the General Fund by \$17,450 YTD. The good news is, due to generous giving, we eliminated almost \$5,000 from the deficit we had at the end of Sept. The next two months of giving are crucial in order to end 2018 in the black. Your Congregational Council asks for your prayers and financial support in whatever way you are able to respond. Together we can make sure the the mission and ministry of San Marcos Lutheran continues to thrive. Thank you all for your support!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Prayers of healing for Evi Quinn and Mike Scarpelli.

Our sympathy to the Fretwell family at the death of Charlene Fretwell and to the Thompson family at the death of Sadie Thompson. May God comfort all those who mourn with the hope of resurrection. A service of the Celebration of Eternal Life for Sadie Thompson will be held at the church on Dec. 8 at 11:30 am.0



9:45 a.m. in Luther Hall

Making Sense of Scripture (David Lose)

led by Pastors Dell and Frances Olson

There will be no Adult Forum
 on Dec. 23, 30, and Jan. 6

Social Actions Christmas "Giving Tree" Project

...for gift cards for La Mirada Academy (former Alvin Dunn School). One tree will be in the Narthex and the other in Luther Hall the Sunday after Thanksgiving. You are given the opportunity to purchase a Target gift card in any amount, to distribute to those who need a little help to make their Christmas brighter. We have a good partnership with the school and this gives us a chance to show our commitment of love and faith.

Please return your gift card along with the tag to one of the boxes located under the trees by December 16, 2018. ***IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE AMOUNT OF THE GIFT CARD ON THE GIFT CARD.*** We thank you for your generosity in the past and your continued support this year.



MEN'S FUN & FELLOWSHIP 1ST ANNUAL DATE NIGHT

(Burn your own steak)
December 8, 2018 at 5:30 PM
at Pacific Views NCO Club

Charcoal grills provided, fixings include baked beans, corn on the cob, baked potato, salad and rolls. Drinks are extra.

Deadline for reservations is Dec. 2. You may sign up at the church after services or phone Bill Hanson (760) 945-9716

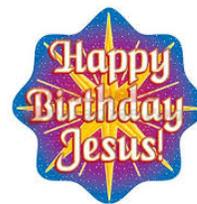
You may meet at the club at 5:30 or at the Church for carpooling at 5:00. Pricing is as follows: Steak dinner \$13; Chicken dinner \$10; Steak and Chicken \$16. Drinks are extra.

"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" San Diego Women's Chorus December 9th at 4:00 p.m.

San Diego Women's Chorus will present "Home for the Holidays," a winter concert featuring diverse songs of the season. You'll hear familiar music, both traditional and contemporary. Selections include "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve," "In Dulce Jubilo," "Elf the Musical," and "White Winter Hymnal." SDWC is proud to showcase our diverse traditions through music, and we will include music of Solstice, Hanukkah, winter favorites, and both religious and secular Christmas songs.

CAROLING PARTY (GOD'S WORK, OUR VOICES) SAT., DEC. 1ST FROM 3 – 6 P.M.

Join us for our annual caroling/bell ringing/spreading cheer event on Sat., Dec 1. We will visit many of our homebound members and local skilled nursing and senior living places, or you can help put up and decorate the Sanctuary Christmas tree. We will return for a hot meal (free!), Christmas crafts for all ages, and signing around the tree. Friends, neighbors and family welcome! An All Ages Event! Contact Pastor Karla for more information and if you would like to help!



SMLC WOMEN COME CELEBRATE THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

Sat. Dec. 15th at 11:30 a.m. in Luther Hall
Bring your special Christmas Salad to share. Also bring donations for the Food Pantry as your ticket.
Guest Speaker, Pastor Gene Holtz
Martin Luther's Christmas Sermon
Dessert and beverages will be provided.



December Youth Events



No Confirmation classes during the month of December. We will resume on Jan 13 here at San Marcos Lutheran.

Dec 1 (Saturday) 3:00- 6 pm Christmas Tree Decorating and Caroling Party ("God's Work, Our Voices")

Dec 7 (Friday) 5:00-8:30 Parents' Night Out (kids come 5:30-8:00) HELP NEEDED! Please come help us take care of kids ages 2 ½- 5th grade. Responsible friends invited, and community service hours will be given!

Dec 16 (Sunday) Progressive Dinner at O'Carrolls and Agonias!

Christmas Eve, Dec 24 (Monday) help needed with greeting, acolyting, torch bearing, Holy Communion, music and the kids Christmas pageant! Contact Pastor Karla if you can help!

Dec 30 (Sunday) 8 am -4 pm Decorating for Tournament of Roses (Rosebowl Parade)

Upcoming Events-

January 13 Confirmation resumes

Middle School Winter Retreat Friday January 18-Sunday Jan 20 (cost \$145, full and partial scholarships available)

High School Winter Retreat Saturday Feb 22- Monday Feb 24 (cost \$145, full and partial scholarships available)

After School Music and Arts begins February 20 (Teen help is always welcomed!)

Day Camp 2019 June 17-21

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY Sunday (or Sunday school event)

9:45 starting in Sanctuary.

Questions? Contact Pastor Karla PastorKarlasmlc@sbcglobal.net

858-442-6761 cell

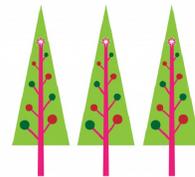
Senior High- Daniel Norris daniel.norris@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School- Rachel Gustin rachelanncgutierrez@gmail.com



SMLC Children's Center News

December 2018



Ann Leong, Director • 760-727-0326 • smlcchild@sbcglobal.net

ALL ARE INVITED to join us in the sanctuary at **10:30am** on **Friday, December 14th** for our **ALL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!** The entire school is in this ONE time event, so MWF kids come at their regular time and TUTH kids come no later than 10am. Your child does not have to dress up, but holiday attire is fine. After the program, there will be a special surprise for all the kids and siblings on the preschool playground...shhh, it's a secret, but he lives at the North Pole! Doors will open for the program at 10am! This is something your whole family will want to attend. Please let us know if your child will not be here!

Additional December Events...Mark your calendars!

Sat, Dec 1st: God's Work/Our Voices: Sing at Village Square Nursing Home and then Free Dinner and Craft for kiddos right here at the church! 3:30-6pm... See sign up on Director Window!

Nov 28th-Dec 12th: Pajama Drive for Teen Parent Program in Escondido

Thurs, Dec 6th and Fri, Dec 7th: **December Birthday Celebrations AND Pajama Days~Wear your jammies to school!**

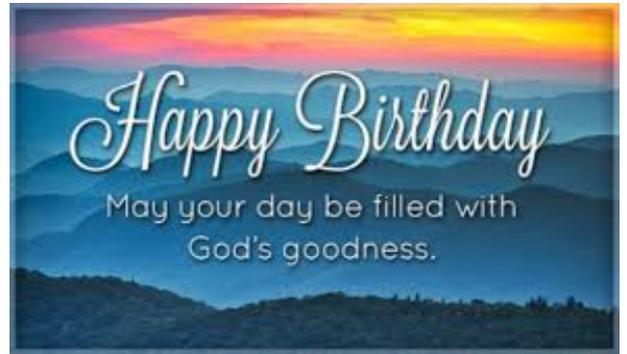
Fri, Dec 7th: Parents Night Out from 5:30-8:00pm. Sign-ups begin Nov 26th!

Friday, December 14th: Our All School Christmas Production at 10:30am. See article above for info. We will close at Noon on this day and will remain closed until Tuesday, January 1st.

Dec 17th-Jan 1st: Closed for Christmas Break. School will resume on Wednesday, Jan 2nd...2019!

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, we want to thank you all for your love and support of our school, of the staff, our programs and our outreach ministries to the food pantry and teen parent program. We recognize you have many choices for your child's education and we feel blessed that you have chosen our little center to help your child grow in their education and love of the Lord. Wishing you a Merry CHRISTmas and Happy New Year! Love & Blessings~ Ann, Theresa, Marit, Leilani and Brittney

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God



Dec. 2	First Sun. in Advent	12/1	Kristen Szepe
First Reading:	Jer 33:14-16	12/2	Johannes Ericsson
Second Reading:	1 Thess 3:9-13	12/6	Friedel Lunnerdal
Gospel:	Luke 21:25-36	12/7	Jami Phelps
Dec. 9	Second Sun. in Advent	12/10	Ellen Arney
First Reading:	Mal 3:1-4	12/10	William Noesgaard
Second Reading:	Phil 1:3-11	12/10	Nicholas Smith
Gospel:	Luke 3:1-6	12/12	Eleanor Adcock Elisha Capezzone
Dec. 16	Third Sun. in Advent	12/13	Hannah Johnson Katie Jorstad Zachary Mesker
First Reading:	Zeph 3:14-20	12/14	Ross Webster
Second Reading:	Phil 4:4-7	12/15	William Pilmer
Gospel:	Luke 3:7-18	12/17	Brett Muetzel Peri Storey
Dec. 23	Fourth Sun. in Advent	12/18	Ashley Balbo Brandon Balbo Inga Enge
First Reading:	Micah 5:2-5a	12/19	Kris Kepler
Second Reading:	Heb 10:5-10	12/20	Daniel Norris
Gospel:	Luke 1:39-55	12/22	Carol Schwartz
Dec. 24 (5 & 7 pm)	Christmas Eve	12/26	Bailey O'Carroll
First Reading:	Isaiah 9:2-7	12/27	Dianne McGovern
Second Reading:	Titus 2:11-14	12/28	Penny Muetzel
Gospel:	Luke 2:1-20	12/29	Douglas Bassett
Dec. 30	First Sun. after Christmas	12/30	Kinsley Armstrong
First Reading:	1 Sam 2:18-20, 26	12/31	Norma Sultany
Second Reading:	Col 3:12-17		
Gospel:	Luke 2:41-52		

December 2018							Page 10
San Marcos Lutheran							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Christmas Caroling, God's Work, Our Voices 3-6 pm Sanct. in Use	
2 1 st Sun in Advent 8:30 & 11 am Svcs 9:45 am Informal Svc, Adult Ed 9:45 am Sun School Food Collection 3:30 pm Conf 7:00 pm AA, LH	3 11:30 am AA, LH	4 10:00 am Bible Study	5 9:30 am Centering Prayer, Nursery 10:30 am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 11:30 am AA, LH 6:30 pm Mutual Ministry @ O'Carroll's	6 10:30 am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 7:00 pm AA, LH	7 10:30 am St. Joseph Chapel, Sanct.	8 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, LH 9:30 am Budget Committee, Conf Rm	
9 2 nd Sun in Advent 8:30 & 11 am Svcs 9:45 am Informal Svc, Adult Ed. 9:45 am Sun Sch 10:30 am Annual Cong. Meeting 3:30 pm Conf 4:00 pm Concert 7:00 pm AA, LH	10 9:30 am Prayer Schapel Group, LH 11:30 am AA, LH	11	12 9:30 am Centering Prayer, Nursery 10:30 am Preschool Chapel, Sanct. 11:30 am AA, LH	13 9:00 am Sanct/LH in Use 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm AA, LH	14 10:30 St. Joseph Chapel, Sanct	15 10:00 am Women's Bagels & Bibles 11:30 am Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon, LH	
16 3 rd Sun in Advent 8:30 & 11 am Svcs 9:45 am Informal Svc, Adult Ed 10:40 am Sacred parenting, Conf Rm 3:30 pm Conf 5:00 pm Prog. Dis. 7:00 pm AA, LH	17 11:30 am AA, LH	18 10:00 am Bible Study	19 9:30 am Centering Prayer, Nursery 11:30 am AA, LH	20 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm AA, LH	21 10:30 St. Joseph Chapel, Sanct	22	
23 4 th Sun in Advent 8:30 & 11 am Svcs 9:45 am Informal Svc, Adult Ed 3:30 pm Conf 7:00 pm AA, LH	24 Christmas Eve 11:30 am AA, LH 5:00 & 7:00 Candlelight Svcs	25 No Christmas Service	26 9:30 am Centering Prayer, Nursery 11:30 am AA, LH	27 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm AA, LH	28	29	
30 6 th Sun after Pentecost 8:30 & 11 am Svcs 9:45 am Informal Svc 9:45 am Sun Sch 7:00 pm AA, LH	31						

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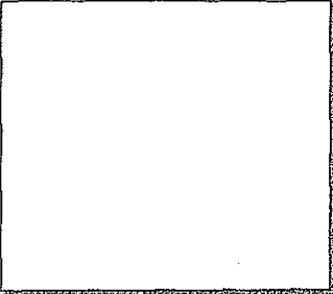
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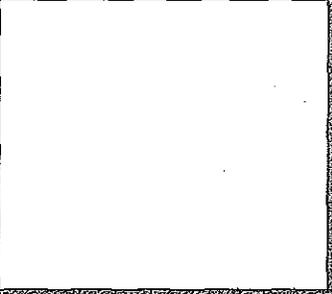
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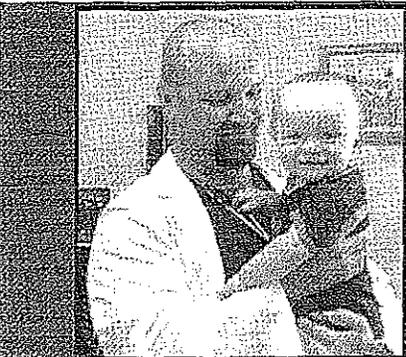
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