



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

March 2026

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

Important Dates in March:



Saturdays of Sisterhood
Saturday, March 7th
at 10am in Luther Hall



Palomar Chamber Singers
Spring Choral Showcase
Friday, March 20, 2026
at 7pm
(See insert for more information)



Border Church at Whiskey 8
Sunday March 29
at 1:30pm
(See pg.4 for more information)

“Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” – from the Vision and Purpose of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

At February’s annual meeting of the congregation, we looked back on a full 2025 and ahead to the opportunities in front of us in 2026. My deep gratitude to all of the leaders of this congregation who serve God and your neighbors in ways large and small. If you missed the meeting, you can still get a copy of the Annual Report by contacting the office; there is a lot in there that might interest you!

The remarks I made were about the year in review but also about a shift into a new phase of my service as your pastor. We have crossed the three-year mark, which means we have covered every available Sunday of the three- year lectionary cycle—I know you have been keeping track at home.

To me, this marks a natural transition into a new phase of our life together, where it is time for us to get specific about where God is calling this community next. To that end, I am leading a major project over the coming months to steward our Mission, Vision, and Values—foundational elements that we currently do not have formally defined.

A mission statement will define what we are doing, a vision statement will articulate what we are working toward, and our core values will explain why.

Here’s where you come in: I am forming a dedicated task force to facilitate this process, and I am inviting you to prayerfully consider participating. The task force will consist of myself, one council member, and four to five other members representing the diverse voices of our congregation—including longtime and recent members of various ages.

I imagine your first question is about the time commitment:

- For five months, a one-hour meeting, little to no homework between meetings
- Two Sundays (month 1 and month 3) helping facilitate Community Time activities for the whole congregation
- Attendance at one council meeting (month 5) to present our work
- One Sunday (month 6) to introduce our work to the congregation during the worship service

Our goal is to deeply listen to the input of the entire congregation to think strategically and with great hope about the future of SMLC. Getting clear on these elements will help us more meaningfully be the "salt of the earth and the light of the world" in 2026 and beyond.

What makes a great member of this task force?

- A voting member of the congregation in good standing, whether you’ve been here 20 years or are new
- Enthusiasm and optimism about the future of San Marcos Lutheran Church
- Willingness to speak with other members of the congregation in person and on the phone
- Curiosity about where God is calling this community
- Availability in the coming months to attend these meetings and Sunday mornings

If you recognize these gifts in a fellow member, please let me know. I will be asking you directly to join this taskforce in the coming weeks. Do not feel obligated to say yes if asked, but please consider how you might help us take this next faithful step.

Remember, wherever we go, God is already there.

Peace,
Pastor Casey

San Marcos Lutheran Church

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(760) 727-1509

office@sanmarcoslutheran.org

www.sanmarcoslutheran.org



All are Welcome! As a community of the people of God, the members of San Marcos Lutheran Church 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)

Pastor Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Office Manager: Aimee Hudlow Musician: Justin Hershey

Bookkeeper: Cristen Mugford Choir Director: Max Chodos

Communications: Adriana Alfaro

Council Members

Dan Norris, President	Ed Mossuto
Kelly Van Jen, Vice Pres.	Devin Hogan
Anne Voth, Secretary	Donna Johnson
Beda Farell, Treasurer	Sharon Phelps
Brother Jack Anderson	Esther Daniels

To contact any Council members, email council@sanmarcoslutheran.org

San Marcos Lutheran Preschool
preschool@sanmarcoslutheran.org
(760)727-0326

Director: Ann Leong

Teachers: Roxy Maldonado, Marlene Vazquez, & Elle Kim



Remember in Prayer:

Christine Buma, Sue Check, Crystal, Celia Genishi, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Gary Kloehn, Karin Kloehn, Larry, Deborah McGregor, Maddie, Melinda Nelson, Alvar Roy, Jean Russell, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele, Stephanie, Nick Torres, Kelly Van Jen.

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
- You want to plan a baptism, wedding, or celebration
- You moved or contact info has changed.

For urgent needs, contact Pastor Casey at cell: 442-222-1194

Lutheran Fellowship Lunch

Everyone is invited for good food and fellowship with First Lutheran of Vista. We will meet on Monday, March 9th at 12pm at PEGAH's Kitchen at 955 S Santa Fe, in Vista. It will be order from the menu and they have a great selection. Any Questions contact Bill Hanson, 760-805-4565. Hope to see you there!



Saturdays of Sisterhood

Saturdays of Sisterhood meets on Saturday, March 7th from 10-11:30 AM. Saturdays of Sisterhood is a bible study designed by women, for women, about women. It includes fellowship, bible reading, sharing of ideas, prayer, and fun. No need to RSVP a spot, all women are welcome! Questions? Contact Karin Kupka

Financial Update

End of January 2026 - 8.3% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$308,160	\$27,002	8.76%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$322,368	\$25,393	7.88%

Thank you for your generous gifts which support the mission and ministry of San Marcos Lutheran Church!

SACK LUNCHES

A Big Thank you from your Social Action Committee to all who helped and donated items for the 100 sack lunches that were made for the homeless. You made it a great success.

In Christ's Service, SAC

Social Action



ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

In March, we'd love to have donations of cooking oil, oatmeal, and rice (again, all kinds). Thanks for the ways you continue to support this ministry. Special thanks to the wonderful group of volunteers who are so welcoming to our clients. And many of you are participating through your generous donations. All good!

If you're not familiar with the food pantry, this is a mutual ministry with All Saints Episcopal Church in Vista. They provide the facilities, including refrigerator/freezer, distribution space, and pay for our purchases from the San Diego Food Bank. We are the primary source of volunteers and do the twice-monthly pick-up from the Food Bank in Vista. All Saints also works with Humanity Showers to provide a hot meal and showers every Friday morning, and a mobile medical/dental clinic comes to their site on a monthly basis.

Join us for Border Church, fundraiser and clothing drive

Sunday, March 29, at 1:30pm

At Whiskey 8

Whiskey 8 is a location on the U.S. side of the border wall, in San Diego.

Border Church: A community of faith spanning an international border. Border Church is where faith inspires action—we are committed to serving our community on both sides of the border and advocating for justice.

While our friends in Mexico gather at our "birthplace," International Friendship Park in Playas de Tijuana, we invite you to join us for worship here at the border in the United States.

SMLC Social Action team will be attending Border Church at Whiskey 8, with Pastor Maria Santa Cruz, on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 1:30 pm. We will be carpooling from the church. If you are interested in joining us, contact Jack Anderson, Donna Johnson, or Karla Strazicich.

We will also bring some clothing donations for the Border Church in Playas de Tijuana and a cash donation. The Playas church prepares a hot lunch for the local community to share every Sunday, after the service. Gently used jackets and sweaters are also requested. This is an important ministry to the border community.

OFFERING OF LETTERS

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger. Our letters or emails are an expression of faith and hope, urging U.S. decision makers to continue to support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children. After worship on Sunday, March 22nd, the Social Action Committee will provide paper, the names of our area legislators, and ask you to write brief letters of support. Sample texts will be available. If you would like to assist with delivering these letters, please let us know.

Team Holy Week

Pastor Casey needs your help to prepare Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services and fellowship! If you can help out with things like coordinating your fellow volunteers, setting tables, arranging carpools, stuffing easter eggs, or assembling potlucks, you'd be a great fit for Team Holy Week. Call the office 760-727-1509 or email Pastor Casey: pastor@sanmarcoslutheran.org to sign up or learn more about the specifics.

Council Update

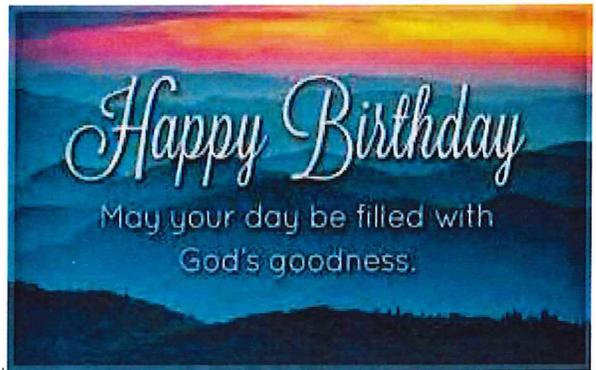
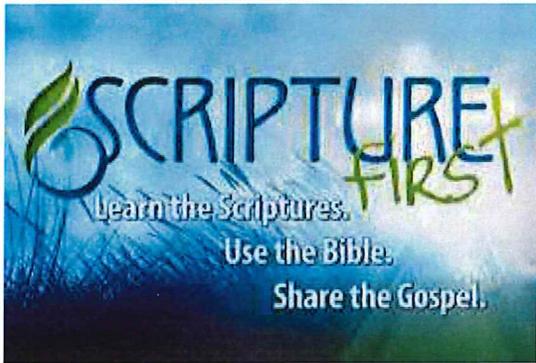
Hello SMLC! Here are the updates for the February Council meeting.

The Council met on February 25 for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports as well as reports for January. The Council considered 2 items of business. First, the Council approved a fundraising request from the Social Action Committee. The Council approved an additional Endowment Fund distribution recommendation from the Endowment Committee in the amount of \$12,000.

The Council also began to discuss ways to increase leadership and involvement with our community with a section of the agenda entitled, "Cultivating Community: Leadership and Involvement". This will be a monthly agenda item as we progress through 2026.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president for 2026 and for your continued support of SMLC, our Council, Pastor Casey, and the staff.

Daniel Norris, President



March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Gen 12: 1-4a
Second Reading: Rom 4:1-5, 13-17
Gospel: John 3:1-7

March 8 Third Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Exod 17:1-7
Second Reading: Rom 5:1-11
Gospel: John 4:5-42

March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: 1 Sam 16:1-13
Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41

March 22 Fifth Sunday In Lent

First Reading: Ezek 37:1-14
Second Reading: Rom 8:6-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

March 29 Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isa 50:4-9a
Second Reading: Phil 2:5-11
Gospel: Matt 26:14-27:66

- March 2 Therese Balbo
- March 4 Ava Nolan
- March 6 Don Arney
- March 6 Rachel Norris
- March 8 Donna Huber
- March 8 Mary Streelman
- March 9 Jean Kahn
- March 10 Nancy Klinger
- March 13 Jolene Hansen
- March 13 Dylan Hudlow
- March 13 Kaylee Hudlow
- March 17 Jan Parthemer
- March 19 Adam Holmberg
- March 20 Linda Eller
- March 23 Kamden Moeller
- March 26 Dana Hogan
- March 26 Riley Lott
- March 29 Juliana Orozco
- March 30 Ryan Hagan
- March 30 Marie Schilke

**The next Newsletter article deadline
is March 15th**

2026

MARCH

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	02 12pm- AA- LH	03 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	04 12pm- AA- LH	05 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	06 945-1145- St Joes- SA 12pm- AA- LH	07 10am- Sat of Sister- LH 6-9pm AA- LH
08 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	09 12pm- AA- LH	10 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	11 12pm- AA- LH	12 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	13 12pm- AA- LH	14 6-9pm AA- LH
15 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	16 12pm- AA- LH	17 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	18 12pm- AA- LH 10-2pm- Palomar- SA 9pm- Palomar- SA	19 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	20 12pm- AA- LH 6-8pm- Palomar Choir-SA	21 6-9pm AA- LH
22 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	23 12pm- AA- LH	24 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	25 12pm- AA- LH	26 8am-3pm- St Joes- SA /LH 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	27 12pm- AA- LH	28 6-9pm AA- LH
29 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time 1:30 Border Church	30 12pm- AA- LH	31 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	01 12pm- AA- LH	02 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	03 12pm- AA- LH	04 6-9pm AA- LH
05 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	06 12pm- AA- LH	07 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	08 12pm- AA- LH	09 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	10 12pm- AA- LH	11 6-9pm AA- LH

Spring Choral SHOWCASE

PALOMAR CHORALE
PALOMAR CHAMBER SINGERS
AND

Rancho Bernardo High School Madrigals and Treble Ensemble

Directed by John Russell

Friday, March 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
San Marcos Lutheran Church

PALOMAR
CHORAL & VOCAL STUDIES

