



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

October 2023

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



Important Dates

Sunday, Oct. 1st- 1pm
Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, Oct. 7th- 7pm
Palomar Chamber Singers Concert

Sunday, Oct. 8th- 12pm
Congregational Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 26- 10am-12pm
Pr. Casey's Outdoor Office Hours
at Ascend Coffee

Wednesday, Nov 1st- 5pm-7pm
All Saints Day
Love & Loss Story Night

Worship Survey – please respond by October 23

We are discerning the best way forward for our congregation's worship life. Your contribution to this conversation is important—you are the congregation! The survey is available in multiple formats: an online form, a PDF in this month's newsletter for you to print and return, or in hard copy in the church office. Thank you for taking the time to offer your feedback to Pastor Casey and the worship committee. The results of this survey will inform our next steps. If you have questions about accessing the survey, call the church office or email pastorcaseykd@gmail.com for help

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

— 1 Peter 4:10

Each Sunday morning, I greet you by saying “welcome to worship on this [umpteenth] Sunday of Ordinary Time.” Have you noticed? Sometimes I say “after Pentecost” instead, just to keep it exciting. We are in the home stretch of the part of the Church year that is empty of holidays, feasts, festivals, and banner-color-changes.

As we enter October, though, things are starting to kick into gear. We’re celebrating the Feast of St. Francis on 10/1 with prayers for our earth and a Blessing of the Animals; we’ll close out the month by celebrating Martin Luther’s contributions to the Protestant Reformation with Reformation Sunday on 10/29. Once we hit November and December, it’s full speed ahead on holidays! But we won’t get ahead of ourselves. There’s still plenty of Ordinary Time to go.

All month, we’ll hear Moments for Mission from your neighbors in the pews as we enter into a season of stewardship. God has given us so many good gifts in this community, and we will spend this season celebrating them. Our theme for this year’s stewardship campaign is Counting on Community. When have you counted on the SMLC community? When has this community counted on you? How did those encounters—ordinary or extraordinary—make you feel? I invite you to wonder about that.

San Marcos Lutheran Church is many things, but it is first and foremost a congregation, people gathered to praise God and to live out the Gospel in love and compassion and service of one another. We are a community who prays for one another and for those we love; we are a community who laughs together and grieves together; we are a community who supports one another with a ride to worship or a listening ear; we are a community who learns new things together; we are a community who reaches inward to extend a hand out to our neighbors in need.

As you reflect on the days, weeks, months, years, or even decades you have been connected to San Marcos Lutheran Church, you may find it easiest to remember the Big Deals—major milestones and shiny, one-time events. The everyday life of this congregation—our time spent in fellowship and care—may seem fairly ordinary. But it is this ordinariness that holds us all together. The day-in and day-out work of the church requires ordinary things like staff and utilities, paper clips and WiFi access points, communion cups and coffee beans. All of these things go into our annual budget; being good stewards of the gifts God has given us requires a faithful accounting of those gifts.

You will receive a Commitment Card for 2024 (either at worship or in the mail) alongside the opportunity to discern your ability to participate in God’s work through this congregation. Prayerfully consider your own financial realities, and what good gifts you have to offer this community. In addition to your generosity of monetary donations, examine your interest and ability to serve this community with your time and talents. As our scripture tells us in no uncertain terms, we are each uniquely gifted by the God who created us and loves us, made to be individual members of the Body of Christ. Your contributions to this community, ordinary and extraordinary, are necessary for the work of the Gospel.

Peace,
Pastor Casey

San Marcos Lutheran Church

3419 Grand Avenue San Marcos, CA 92078

(760) 727-1509

smlc3419@sbcglobal.net

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)

Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Office Manager: Aimee Hudlow Bookkeeper: Eunice Hanson

Choir Director: Max Chodos Musician: Justin Hershey

Council Members

Dan Norris, President	Karla Strazicich-Cain
Kelly Van Jen, Treasurer	Jan Parthemer
Anne Voth, Secretary	Karen Johns
Kelly Black, Vice President	

To contact any Council members, Call the Church office and we will forward to the appropriate member. 760-727-1509

San Marcos Lutheran Preschool

www.smlcchild@sbcglobal.net

(760)727-0326 Director: Ann Leong

Teachers: Roxy Maldonado, Marlene Vasquez, Elle Kim



Remember in Prayer:

Christine Buma, Dorothy, Grace, Jerry Farrell, Gary Haldeman, Pete Johnson, Linda Kent, Gary Kloehn, Victoria Kautz, Sean O'Carroll, Alvar Roy, Larry Serafin, Roy Smith, Vern Soderstrom, Nick Torres, and Dan Weis.



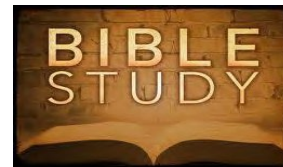
PLEASE CONTACT US!

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 contact info has changed

For urgent needs, contact

Pr. Casey at cell (442)222-1194 or email: pastorcaseykd@gmail.com



Bibles & Bagels

Saturday, October 21
110 AM-11:30 AM
Luther Hall

Lutheran Fellowship Lunch Group will meet on Monday, Oct. 9th. at 12pm. at PEGAH's Kitchen at 955 S. Santa Fe, in Vista. It will be an order from the menu, have lunch and fellowship.

Hope to see you all there.

Any questions contact Bill Hanson.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will be. at approx. 10:15am, between the services each Sunday.

For any questions, contact Pr. Casey.

Financial Update

FROM YOUR TREASURER

August 2023 66.67 % of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$331,059	\$176,933	53.44%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$331,059	\$204,036	61.63%



Your continued giving is appreciated as we embark on our new ministry with Pastor Casey. Our financial position is stable, but not as strong as it could be at this point in the year. We need your sustained, generous support to continue sufficient stability as we move into the fall.

Council Update

Hello SMLC!

Here are the updates for the September Council meeting:

The Council met on September 19 for our regular monthly meeting. September is the kick-off for the fall season for the church and for the council as we start to plan for 2024 and the needs of the church.

The Council had 3 items of business to complete this month. First, the Council appointed 5 persons and Pastor Casey to the Nominating Committee: Anne Voth (Church Secretary), Karen Johns (council member), Diana Arney, Sharon Phelps, and Dana Hogan. If you have interest in serving on Council please contact Anne or Pastor Casey. Second, the Council appointed persons to the Budget Committee: Kelly Van Jen (Church Treasurer), Rob O'Carroll, Victoria Shoup, Dan Norris (Church President), and Pastor Casey. We are still in need of 1 additional person to serve on the Budget Committee.

If you have interest, please contact me, Kelly Van Jen, or Pastor Casey. Thirdly, the Council officially set October 8, 2023 at approximately noon (immediately after the 11 o'clock service) for the Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the constitution and bylaws updates. **Please plan on attending as we need to have a quorum to conduct this very important business.**

Lastly, although there was no decision to be made, the council discussed the Stewardship Campaign which will begin in October to help establish how all the great gifts of our congregation can be used in 2024 to complete our mission to do God's work in our world. Look for more information coming soon.

Daniel Norris, President

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS (GWOH) SUNDAY What a great day! So much energy. So many smiling faces and busy hands. Following a brief service, which included Pastor Casey Blessing our Hands, we moved to our projects. It was a pleasure to see Ann Leong with so many pre-schoolers and their parents painting rocks for their area. Thanks to those making fleece blankets, including extra hours put in by Diana Arney, Yvonne McCoy, Susan Agonia, and Anne Voth, 32 blankets were completed and given to Interfaith for their Family Shelter, which will be opening soon. About 60 hygiene kits were put together under Karla Strazicich-Cain's leadership, and over 100 sack lunches were assembled for Interfaith (they give out approximately 300 a day!). Jill Adachi and Doris Payne led that effort. Marilyn Pulver was in charge of the group that assembled over 100 Blessing Bags. Reminder that you can pick these up from the little wagon and have them available in your car to distribute to the homeless. And then there was the potluck luncheon, set up by Jan Parthemer and helpers! So many tasty choices! No one should have left hungry – in body or spirit. Thanks to all who participated. Be thinking of other projects we might tackle next year.





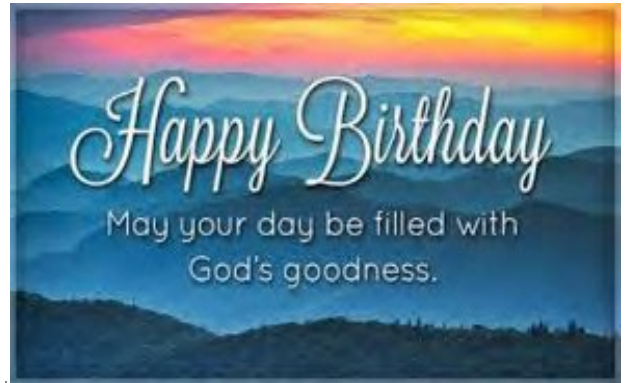
The Elizabeth Hospice
Presents

LOVE & LOSS STORY NIGHT

CELEBRATE THE LOVE

An evening of storytelling and music for anyone who has lost someone they love. Bring your favorite stories, pictures, or a meaningful item to share.

*Wednesday, November 1, 5 pm-7 pm, San Marcos
Lutheran Church, 3419 Grand Ave, San Marcos. Bring a
favorite dessert, yours or a loved one. Please RSVP by
October 25 to pastorcaseykd@gmail.com.*



Oct 1 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading: Ezek 18:1-4,25-32

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-13

Gospel: Matt 21:23-32

Oct 8 Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading: Isa 5:1-7

Second Reading: Phil 3:4b-14

Gospel: Matt 21:33-46

Oct 15 Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading: Isa 25:1-9

Second Reading: Phil 4:1-9

Gospel: Matt 22:1-14

Oct 22 Twenty-first Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading: Isa 45:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Thess 1:1-10

Gospel: Matt 22:15-22

Oct 29 Reformation Sunday

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

Second Reading: Rom 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Oct 1 Birgitte Noesgaard

Oct 1 Nathan Young

Oct 3 Gracelyn Szepe

Oct 3 Eliana Walenta-Young

Oct 6 Linda Kent

Oct 8 Iris Garcia

Oct 8 Colin Hagan

Oct 8 Frieda Tseng

Oct 9 Sheri Mossuto

Oct 11 Ed Mossuto

Oct 11 Patty Pulver

Oct 13 Scotty Bordonaro

Oct 13 Jim Kent

Oct 14 Evelyn Walenta

Oct 18 Vicki Petsche

Oct 19 Bob White

Oct 20 Savannah Szepe

Oct 21 Dean Fawcett

Oct 24 Kelly Van Jen

Oct 25 Bette Soderstrom

Oct 29 Vance Finney

Oct 30 Victoria Shoup

Oct 30 Liz Starr

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



CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



3419 Grand Ave, San Marcos 92078 • 760-727-0326 • smlcchild@sbcglobal.net

Good-bye summer, hello Fall...The weather is finally getting cooler, the leaves in the playground are beginning to change color, and it is the season for everything pumpkin! We welcome this month by inviting our families to our Fall picnics and by participating in the Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill. We will also be busy getting ready for Fall Fest Days! October, here we come!!

~Blessings, Mrs. Leong



Welcome Fall Family Picnic

Wear your favorite FALL color and join us for a picnic lunch!

When: Thursday, 10/12 and Friday, 10/13

What time: 12pm-1pm

Where: Outdoors in the Children's Creek

Bring a sack lunch, bring a blanket...
we have plenty of seating!



Children's Center Cares Closet (C4)

I am excited to share with you the newest community engagement project happening right here in our corner:

The Children's Center Cares Closet

Open every 2nd Wednesday of the month, starting October 11, 2023 from 11am –1pm in SMLC Nursery Room. 100% proceeds will benefit San Marcos Meals on Wheels, our senior friends in the community!

Volunteer...donate...shop!

Upcoming Events and Other Friendly Reminders:

- *Oct 9th (Mon): School Closed for Cleaning
- *Oct 12th (Thurs) & Oct 13th (Fri): Welcome Fall Family Picnic~ 12pm-1pm. Parents are invited!
- *Oct 18th (Wed) and 19th (Thurs): The Great California Shakeout/ Earthquake Drill
- *Oct 25th (Wed): NO LUNCH BUNCH ~ CLOSED AT NOON for staff meeting
- *Oct 26th (Thurs) & 27th (Fri): FALL FEST DAYS & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS~ Children can wear friendly costumes to school (keep in mind costumes might get dirty!)

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God



Pacifica Women of the ELCA
Annual Convention and Gathering
November 3 & 4, 2023

*Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace you
have been saved through faith.*

Danish Lutheran Church & Cultural Center
16881 Bastanchury Road, Yorba Linda, CA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ON FRIDAY:

Pastor Judi Miller from the
Southwest Texas Synod



BIBLE STUDY LEADER ON SATURDAY:

Pastor Jennifer Garcia, Associate
Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Fullerton

Registration is now open. The cost is \$100 for the 2-day event or \$40 for Saturday only. Registrants for the 2-day event can save \$10 by registering by October 1, 2023. Registration form is included with this mailing.

SMLC Worship Survey 2023

We are discerning the best way forward for our congregation's worship life. Your contribution to this conversation is important—you are the congregation! Answer as many of these questions as you like (none are required) and offer as much open-ended feedback as you like. You may have already had a conversation (or several) about these ideas, with Pastor Casey or with other leaders in the congregation, and think that your feedback has been duly noted—it has, but please give it again in this format. Pastor Casey loves data, and loves hearing from everyone.

Please feel free to tell the truth about your preferences, even if you think you are in the minority about something. Your answers will not be connected with your name when Pastor Casey shares them with the worship committee.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute your voice to this discussion! Please return your survey to the church office by **Monday, October 23**.

Name: _____

1. Currently, I attend (in-person or virtually):

- ☐ The 9am Informal Service
- ☐ The 11am Traditional Service
- ☐ Either worship service, depending on my schedule
- ☐ Neither worship service

2. My favorite component(s) of the worship service(s) at SMLC:

- ☐ Prelude / Postlude
- ☐ Community Time / Prayers and Thanksgivings
- ☐ Confession and Absolution
- ☐ Scripture Readings
- ☐ Chanting the Psalm
- ☐ Sermon
- ☐ Prayers of the People / Prayers of Intercession
- ☐ Passing the Peace
- ☐ Choir / Special Music
- ☐ Communion
- ☐ Congregational Songs / Hymns
- ☐ Liturgical Music (Kyrie, Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus, Agnus Dei)
- ☐ Something else: _____

3. My LEAST favorite component(s) of the worship service(s) at SMLC:

- ☐ Prelude / Postlude
- ☐ Community Time / Prayers and Thanksgivings
- ☐ Confession and Absolution
- ☐ Scripture Readings
- ☐ Chanting the Psalm
- ☐ Sermon
- ☐ Prayers of the People / Prayers of Intercession
- ☐ Passing the Peace
- ☐ Choir / Special Music
- ☐ Communion
- ☐ Congregational Songs / Hymns
- ☐ Liturgical Music (Kyrie, Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus, Agnus Dei)
- ☐ Something else: _____

4. During summer 2023, I attended the single 10am service (in-person or virtually):

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ A few times
- ☐ Never

5. My favorite part(s) of the Summer Single Service:

- ☐ Being together with the whole congregation
- ☐ One fellowship / community time
- ☐ New / different music than I am used to
- ☐ The start time
- ☐ Something else: _____

6. My LEAST favorite part(s) of the Summer Single Service:

- ☐ Being together with the whole congregation
- ☐ One fellowship / community time
- ☐ New / different music than I am used to
- ☐ The start time
- ☐ Something else: _____

7. I prefer to receive communion:

- ☐ Gathered around the altar, like we do at the 9am informal service
- ☐ Coming up the center aisle one at a time, like we do at the 11am traditional service
- ☐ Any way it is offered
- ☐ I choose not to receive communion

8. If communion were offered in these two different formats on different Sundays, I would prefer:

- ☐ One format most Sundays, with the other format once-monthly
- ☐ Alternating Sundays between the two formats
- ☐ Changing seasonally or based on the worship committee's discretion

9. My answer to the previous two communion questions is:

- ☐ Very important to me
- ☐ Somewhat important to me – I prefer it one way, but would be okay with the other
- ☐ Not very important to me

10. My preference for the worship schedule at SMLC, going forward is

- ☐ One worship service at 10am
- ☐ Two worship services at 9am and 11am
- ☐ Another option: _____

11. My reasoning for my worship schedule preference is:

12. My household would feel more welcome at worship at SMLC if it included:

- ☐ Childcare on a regular schedule
- ☐ Large print bulletins
- ☐ Song lyrics / words on the TV screen
- ☐ More instructions / explanations in the bulletin about what is happening, when to stand, where to go, etc.
- ☐ More instructions / explanations said out loud by the worship leaders about what is happening, when to stand, where to go, etc.
- ☐ Increased COVID protections (mask-wearing, hand sanitizer, social distancing)
- ☐ Other: _____

13. Other feedback about worship at SMLC:

2023

CALENDAR YEAR

OCTOBER

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 1pm- Blessing of the Animals	02 12pm- AA- LH	03 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	04 12pm- AA- LH	05 7pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	06 9:30-12- St Joe's- Sanct. 12pm- AA- LH	07 7pm- Palomar Chamber Singers Concert- Sanc.
08 12pm- Congregational Mtg	09 12pm- AA- LH Luth. Fellowship Lunch- Pegah's Vista	10 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	11 12pm- AA- LH	12 1:30pm- Social Action Mtg- LH 7pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	13 12pm- AA- LH	14
15	16 12pm- AA- LH	17 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	18 12pm- AA- LH	19 6-8pm- Cub Scouts- LH 7pm-Choir Practice- Sanc.	20 12pm- AA- LH	21 10-11:30am- Bibles & Bagels
22	23 12pm- AA- LH	24 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	25 12pm- AA- LH	26 10am-12pm- Pr Caseys office hrs- Ascend Coffee 7pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	27 12pm- AA- LH	28
29	30 12pm- AA- LH	31 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11