

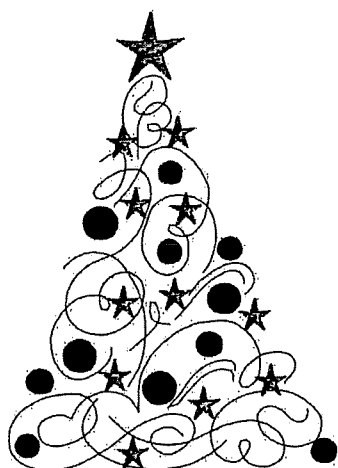


THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

December 2023

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



Important Dates

Saturday, Dec 2nd at 10am
Christmas Tree Decorating

Sunday, Dec. 3rd. at 10am
One Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 11:15am
Advent Adventures

Sunday, Dec. 3rd. at 3pm
Music Men Chorus Concert

Saturday, Dec. 9th at 12pm
Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, Dec. 10th approx. 11:15am
Annual Congregational Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 21st at 7pm
"Advent Reflections" Music/Readings
by the Emerald Duo

Sunday, Dec. 24th 6pm
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec 31st at 10am
Lessons & Carols Service



The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it — John 1:5

Happy New Church Year! It is finally December, and we are entering the season of Advent. We are getting ready—for the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, for the return of Christ into the world, for all of the events and celebrations that mark this season in our communities. It can be overwhelming to even look at the calendar at this time of year, whether it is too full with others' expectations of us or not as full as it was in years past. This season is one of great joy but is not without its bittersweetness.

The four weeks leading up to Christmas are marked by quiet reflection, candlelight, and hopeful anticipation. Each week, we will get closer to the miraculous and mysterious birth of a savior, coming into a broken world as a vulnerable baby. In the year of Jesus' birth and every year since, we have needed God with us, the Word made flesh.

Each Advent, I am struck by how desperate our world is for light to shine in the darkness. Here in the northern hemisphere, the days themselves are getting darker. It is easy to feel despair. But! During this time, on a global scale and in our own personal lives, God bursts in. Yes, we are weary of war, pandemic, violence, unrest, grief, fear, pain, loneliness—you name it—but God hears our cries. In the midst of everything that plagues us, God is faithful. God is with us.

Somewhere along the line, themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace were assigned to the four Sundays in Advent. Churches like ours will follow these (loosely, for the most part) as they correspond to the scripture for each day and are reflected in our songs. This season is also a time for encountering, noticing, preparing, waiting, and magnifying. It is an active season, but need not be a frenzied season.

On the first Sunday in Advent, we'll hear the imperative to "keep awake!" once again. During these weeks, notice how you are awake to the presence of God differently than at other times of the year. Notice where your attention is focused. As you prepare for the arrival of the Christ child (and perhaps for Santa Claus), pay attention to what it feels like to wait.

I hope that you will also experience this season as a time of invitation. Advent and Christmas is a wonderful time to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you at church for something especially festive. You can invite them into an experience of this season that is richer and more spiritual than the chaos of the standard American consumer mayhem.

The pages of this newsletter are filled with opportunities for you (and those you invite!) to experience Advent and Christmas here at San Marcos Lutheran Church. Our worship will tell the story through scripture and song—and remember, we're gathering for one service at 10am! Celebrate with neighbors of all ages at our Advent Adventure during Community Time; get in the spirit of the season with a barbershop concert from the Music Men Chorus; gather with friends new and old for the Christmas Women's Luncheon; hear a festive offering during Advent Reflections Through Words & Music: Love and Peace; light a candle and sing of hope on Christmas Eve; finish the year with Lessons and Carols on New Year's Eve morning. You'll find all the details inside. We hope to see you soon!

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 nor female." (Galatians 3:28)

Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth
 Office Manager: Aimee Hudlow Bookkeeper: Eunice Hanson
 Choir Director: Max Chodos Musician: Justin Hershey

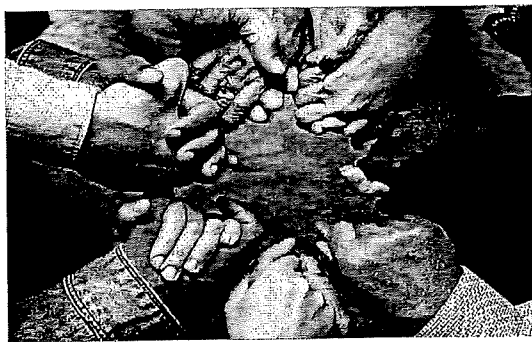
Council Members

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:

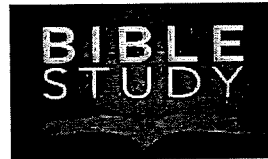
Don Arney, Christine Buma, David, Bernice, Dorothy, Grace, Gary Haldeman, Bill Hanson, Pete & Donna Johnson, Linda Kent, Gwen, Jeanne Kautz, Victoria Kautz, Gary Kloehn, Sid Kranenberg & family, Deborah McGregor, Ray & Judith Moore, Melinda Nelson, Alvar Roy, Larry Serafin, Roy Smith, Vern Soderstrom, 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, Dec. 16th
 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
 Luther Hall

Lutheran Fellowship Lunch Group will meet on
 Monday, Dec. 11th. 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. 11:15am,
 after the service each Sunday.

For any questions, contact Pr. Casey.

Financial Update

FROM YOUR TREASURER

End of October 2023 83.3% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$331,059	\$216,115	65.28%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$331,059	\$249,873	75.48%

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 winter months.



Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Sat., December 9th at 12pm

Please join us for a Women's Christmas Luncheon held in Luther Hall.

Please bring a dish to share.

Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Lunch will be followed by a program followed by singing Christmas Carols.

Feel free to bring a friend and a donation of non perishable food for the Food Bank. Questions contact Donna Huber 760-521-1917 or Jan Parthemer janp@cox.net

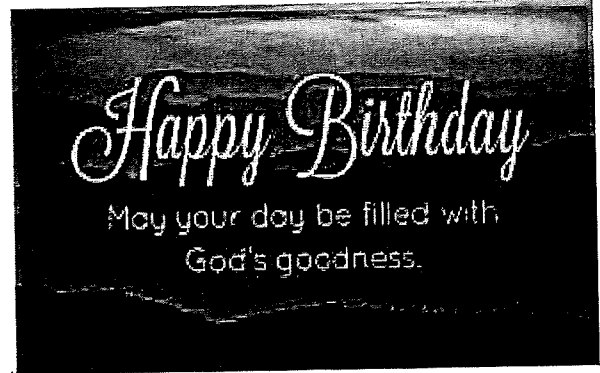
Council Update

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

The Council met on November 15 for our regular monthly meeting. Beyond accepting minutes from previous meetings, submitted and verbal reports, and financial statements, the Council considered 3 items of new business. First, the Council approved a Facility Storage Use policy that applies to outside groups using our facilities. This policy sets limits and conditions on the storage of items belonging to outside groups at SMLC and provides a fee structure for storage of additional items. The Council also nominated 5 members for positions on the Council. If elected, Ed Mossuto, Brother Jack Anderson, Alvar Roy, Devin Hogan, and Tom Andreas would serve a 3-year term beginning in 2024. Lastly, the Council approved the date of Sunday, December 10, 2023 as Part 1 of the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held at 11:15 am following the worship service. This meeting will be to elect the nominated Council members.

Thank you for your continued support of SMLC, our Council, Pastor Casey, and the staff.

Daniel Norris, President

**Dec 3 First Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Isa 64:1-9
 Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Dec 10 Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 40:1-11
 Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
 Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24
 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
 Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27
 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

First Reading: Isa 9:2-7
 Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Dec 1 Kristen Szepe
 Dec 7 Jami Phelps
 Dec 10 Ellen Arney
 Dec 10 William Noesgaard
 Dec 12 Eleanor Adcock
 Dec 13 Hannah Johnson
 Dec 14 Ross Webster
 Dec 15 Christine Buma
 Dec 18 Ashley Balbo
 Dec 18 Brandon Balbo
 Dec 19 Chris Kepler
 Dec 20 Joan Merrihew
 Dec 20 Dan Norris
 Dec 22 Carol Schwartz
 Dec 26 Bailey O'Carroll
 Dec 30 Kinsley Armstrong

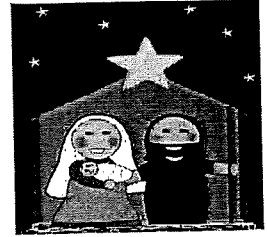
**The next Newsletter article deadline
 is December 15th**



SMLC Children's Center News

December 2023

Ann Leong, Center Director



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

We are continuing our attitude of gratitude as we enter this Advent season (in the Christian church calendar, the time leading up to Christmas is called Advent, a Latin word meaning "coming"). We want to thank you for your love and support of our school, of the staff, our programs and our outreach ministries to the Lutheran Disaster Response, The Cal-SAFE program in Escondido, The Food Pantry in Vista, and Village Square right here in San Marcos! 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 spiritually, physically and socially. Looking ahead to 2024, we are full of hope!! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year~ Jesus is the reason for the season!

Blessings to you and your family~ *Ann, Marlene, Roxy & Elle*

December Events...Mark your calendars!

11/27-12/8: Annual CAL-SAFE Jammie Drive

12/1-12/15: We will be making Christmas cards for our senior friends at Village Square Nursing Home in San Marcos. We are accepting donations for any Christmas foam stickers. Our goal is to make 115 cards! This will ensure every single resident will get one. They will be delivered on December 15th.

12/6 (W): Blanket Making Party in Luther Hall. 12:30pm-2pm. No RSVP necessary!

12/7 (Th) & 12/8 (F): Pajama & Hot Cocoa days ~YES, wear jammies to school!

12/13 (W): Cares Closet OPEN from 11am-1pm

12/15 (F): Last day of Preschool for 2023. NO LUNCH BUNCH! Pick up is at NOON.

12/18-1/1: Closed for Christmas Break. School will resume on Tuesday, 1/2/2024!

We are sharing our Preschool Playdough recipe this Christmas season!

2 Cups of Flour




1 Cup of Salt

1 Tablespoon of Cream of Tartar

2 Cups of Water (lukewarm water works best!)

2 Tablespoon of Vegetable Oil

(Any) Liquid Water Color or Food Coloring

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God

SAN MARCOS LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

3419 GRAND AVE
SAN MARCOS, CA 92078

3PM DEC 3RD

A BARBERSHOP PERFORMANCE BY

MUSIC MEN CHORUS

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

FREE WILL OFFERING

A \$10 DONATION IS APPRECIATED

MUSICMENCHORUS.ORG

2023

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

CALENDAR MONTH

CALENDAR YEAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
10am Service Starts 11am- Advent Adventures 3pm- Music Men- Xmas Concert	03 12pm- AA- LH	04 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	05 11am- Preschool Board Mtg 12pm- AA- Sanct. 12:30-2pm- Preschool- Making Blankets- LH	06 7-9pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	07 12pm- AA- LH	08 12pm- Women's Christmas Luncheon 6-9pm AA- LH
10	11 12pm- AA- LH	12 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	13 12pm- AA- LH	14 7-9pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	15 12pm- AA- LH	16 6-9pm AA- LH
17	18 12pm- AA- LH Preschool Closed thru 1/1/24	19 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	20 12pm- AA- LH	21 7pm- Advent Reflections- Music/Readings- Sanc.	22 12pm- AA- LH	23 6-9pm AA- LH
24 10am Service 6pm Christmas Eve Service	25 12pm- AA- LH Preschool Closed thru 1/1/24	26 Office Closed 9pm- Music Men- LH	27 12pm- AA- LH Office Closed	28 7-9pm Choir Practice- Sanc.	29 12pm- AA- LH	30 6-9pm AA- LH
31	01	02	03	04	05	06