



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

May 2025

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

I sent this email to Team Holy Week after we came up for air post-Easter, but in addition to all of them knowing how grateful I am, I want you, the entire SMLC community, to know how many individuals contributed to making our Holy Week observances as rich as they were. Feel free to express your gratitude to them when you see them next. And of course prayerfully consider being part of Team Holy Week 2026!

Dear Team Holy Week,
Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

In addition to shouting hallelujah as often as possible, I am shouting THANK YOU to all of you for all of the work you did to make our Holy Week so meaningful this year. I received a lot of really thoughtful feedback about how wonderful the services were, and it is important to me that you know that I know that your work made my work easier. :)

Thank you to Aimee for the hundreds of bulletins and the millions of details.

Thank you to Adriana for making sure that all of our extra worship leaders could be seen and heard by those in the room and all those joining in from home.

Thank you to Anne Voth, our Reader Wrangler, for organizing nearly a dozen voices to bring the dramatic scripture of this week alive in our worship services.

Thank you to Beth Sullivan and Jay Goldstein for organizing another successful Easter Egg Hunt—and to Jill Adachi, Lori McLeaster, and Donna Johnson for helping to stuff all those eggs!

Thank you to Diana and Don Arney for reading, operating microphones, and ushering on several occasions, and for setting a beautiful table (for 38!) on Maundy Thursday.

Thank you to Donna Huber and Jan Parthemer for going above and beyond the roles you signed up for to make our extra times of fellowship so inviting and delicious. Supervising two pot luck meals in one week is no small feat!

Thanks, also, to Karla Strazicich-Cain and Karin Kupka (and any others I didn't see!) who jumped in to wash dishes on Maundy Thursday—a herculean task!

Thank you to Jonathan Dunsworth (my husband, haha) for taking down and putting up the sanctuary banners and for figuring out how to fit 11 rectangular tables in Luther Hall for our Maundy Thursday dinner eucharist—and for keeping me fed and watered in between all of these extra events.

Thank you to Karen Johns for supplying the wine and wine alternatives for our Maundy Thursday dinner eucharist—and for checking all those candle batteries!

Thank you to Marilyn Monell and all the ushers for preparing so many tiny glasses of wine and juice for so many worshippers, and for guiding so many visitors to feel welcome in the pews.

Thank you to Max and Justin for choosing such beautiful music to guide us through these holy days. (And thank you to the whole choir for sharing your gifts with God and with us!)

Thank you to Susan Agonia for baking an extra batch of communion bread to make sure we had plenty on hand, and for sourcing our Easter lilies (with chauffeur services by Fran Iverson)!

Thank you to Tom Andreas for getting our altar linens cleaned so they could shine brightly on Easter Sunday!

Thank you for every problem you solved and additional detail you accomplished so successfully that I do not even know about it! There really is no task too small to be a huge help during this sacred time. You freed me to focus on being spiritually grounded and leading our community in the journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to the cross, and to the empty tomb. I am deeply grateful for your hard work and your devotion to this congregation.

If you have feedback about any logistics, please share that with me. We implemented a couple of changes from last year to this year based on how Team Holy Week 2024 felt about things, so please think of Team Holy Week 2026 and let me know what we can do more efficiently next time around.

Peace, Pastor Casey

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. — Mark 12:29-30

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Easter Sunday is in the past, but did you know that Easter is a season? It is 50 days long, and culminates with the Day of Pentecost (this year, June 8). So be sure to really revel in your hallelujahs for the next few weeks, since this is their time to shine. It is easier for us to celebrate the miracle of new life in springtime when the sun is shining so reliably and flowers are blooming so fabulously all around us. Sometimes, though, even that is not enough.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it's always a great time to check in on ourselves. Especially if you were feeling gloomy when the weather was gloomy, you might have expected that once the seasons changed, your mood would too. If you're still not feeling like yourself, there are several things that might help you. (For folks in our community who are aware of their mental health challenges and already have strategies or receive treatment, stick with the plans you and your providers have laid out.)

But for those who are new to the conversation, remember that mental health is just as important as physical health, and that your wholeness—in body, mind, and spirit—matters to God. Just like you would be advised to see a doctor if you had a physical ailment, it's important to tend to our emotional and interior lives, and seek help when we need it. Some of the same strategies that help us stay physically well will also benefit our mental health—things like getting enough sleep, drinking enough water, getting enough exercise, and eating enough nutritious foods. We can also attempt to keep our nervous systems regulated through enjoyable and relaxing activities—these of course will be different depending on what you enjoy and what helps you relax!

One of the most important factors in maintaining our mental health is staying connected. Keeping in touch with the people who matter to us, and making sure we're having real conversations that go beyond "I'm fine, how are you?" help us to notice when something is not quite right. Connection and relationship are among the great gifts of being church together. Gathering for worship each week gives us the opportunity to maintain our relationships with each other, including noticing when someone who is usually there is absent.

Isolation (either physical or emotional) is a major risk to our mental health. If you find yourself feeling isolated, or if you notice that you are choosing not to interact in person as much as you used to, it can be challenging to try and reach out. We can tell ourselves that it's not a big deal, or that nobody even notices we aren't there. But that's not true! We all need each other, and every member of this community is of infinite value—especially to God. Even small acts of kindness and connection go a long way toward reminding each other of that truth.

If you are curious about mental health resources, you can always begin with reliable sources like the California Department of Health and Human Services website, where you can access specific information based on your life stage or circumstances. The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) also has a San Diego chapter.

If you or someone you love needs help, and you don't know where to begin, please tell me. I am not a mental healthcare provider, but I know how to find you one. Do not be afraid or ashamed to struggle. We are all in this together, beloved children of God!

*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	Karla Strazicich-Cain
Kelly Van Jen, Vice Pres.	Ed Mossuto
Anne Voth, Secretary	Devin Hogan
Jan Parthemer, Treasurer	Br. Jack Anderson
	Tom Andreas

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, Jim Cavolt, Sue Check,
Eunice Choi, Steve Choi, Jolene Hanson,
Bill Hanson, Jeff Hey, Mike Hudlow, Pete
Johnson, Jim Kent, Linda Kent, Gary
Kloehn, Laura, Deborah McGregor, Melinda
Nelson, Alvar Roy, Vern Soderstrom, Dawn
Steele, 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, May 12th 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

For Women. By Women. About Women. Bible study, self reflection, and finding community amongst the women of the Bible and those of SMLC!

Please plan on joining on May 3rd at 10 AM
in Luther Hall to learn about Ruth.

Who was she? What struggles did she face? Why study her? Come and see as we open our bibles, discuss, and share about ourselves as we learn about the women of the bible and what they can tell us today to guide us, motivate us, teach us. Coffee and tea will be served. No need to RSVP.

Financial Update

End of March 2025 - 25% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$87,824	27.15%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$87,290	26.99%

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



Social Action

Pacifica AMMPARO Requests Supplies

Migrants are still coming, but are taking much more dangerous routes.

Pacifica AMMPARO, in partnership with "We All We Got" San Diego, will help meet their needs.

We would like to make financial and in-kind contributions through the month of May.

The needs now include:

Medical supplies such as:

- gauze
- antibacterial cream
- anti-itch cream
- large Band-Aids
- ready to use ice packs
- electrolyte packs

Quick and easy food and water such as:

- standard bottles of water
- protein bars
- other non-perishable, easy to open items

Financial contributions can be made online through <https://www.weallwegotsd.com/donate>. Drop off items here at SMLC.

Contact Anne Voth with any questions!

Council Update:

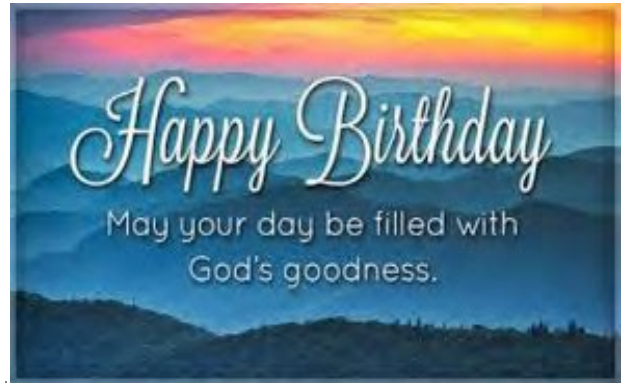
Hello SMLC! Here are the updates for the April Council meeting.

The Council met on April 10 for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports. The Council considered 4 items of business: 1) the Council approved the recommendation from the Endowment Committee for the 2025 disbursements, and 2) the Council reviewed our activities from the March retreat, 3) the Council approved a process to enact and approve the ministry event policy, and 4) the Council was informed of the resignation of Alvar Roy from the Council and agreed to consider candidates for replacement.

Lastly, the Council discussed and agreed upon information and marketing materials that should be made available to our ministries as they plan and organize any community outreach events. This will provide valuable guidance to Pastor Casey, the SMLC staff, and event volunteers as these activities get underway. This section of the Ministry Events policy will be approved at the May Council meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president for 2025 and for your continued support of SMLC, our Council, Pastor Casey, and the staff.

Daniel Norris, President



May 4th Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
 Second Reading: Rev 5:11-14
 Gospel: John 21:1-19

May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43
 Second Reading: Rev 7:9-17
 Gospel: John 10:22-30

May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18
 Second Reading: Rev 21:1-6
 Gospel: John 13:31-35

May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15
 Second Reading: Rev 21:10, 22-22:5
 Gospel: John 14:23-29

May 1 Brady Hudlow
 May 3 Aaron Hagan
 May 4 Jack Anderson
 May 4 Steve Balbo
 May 8 Gene Holtz
 May 9 Peter Durst
 May 11 Sydney Bordonaro
 May 12 Cathy Duncan
 May 13 Conor O'Carroll
 May 19 Marjorie Johnson
 May 20 Lindsay Armstrong
 May 22 Indy Fawcett
 May 23 Bob Jaseph
 May 23 Larissa Shoup
 May 25 Doris Payne
 May 30 Jerry Farrell
 May 31 Grant Webster

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



CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS May 2025



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

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week 5/12 - 5/16

Please contact your Parent Rep,
Lana Buckel on how you can
participate!

E-Mail: lanagallon@yahoo.com
Ph: 760-420-2073



Muffins for Moms

Calling all MOMS~

Come and enjoy a muffin with your
child on **Thursday, 5/8** and **Friday,**
5/9 from 8am-9am in the Children's
Creek! Grandmoms are welcome too!

2025 SUMMER OF FUN PRESCHOOL HALF-DAY CAMPS

Monday-Thursday 8:30a.m. to NOON!

Songs and finger plays, music and movement~ Weekly Bible stories and
water play **EVERY DAY!**

Week #1	June 23-26	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>Art & Science Labs</i>
Week #2	June 30-July 3	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>Stars and Stripes</i>
Week #3	July 7-10	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>"PAW-some" Pets</i>
Week #4	July 14-17	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>Let's Go Camping</i>
Week #5	July 21-24	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>Once Upon A Time</i>
Week #6	July 28-31	Session: Monday thru Thursday	<i>Zooming Into Space</i>

SUMMER HOURS: 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. We will provide a mid-morning snack.

SUMMER RATES: \$225/week flat rate for **four** half days and tuition will be by electronic debit (EFT) only. Fees are non-refundable and includes snack and materials. June camp tuition (Week #1 & #2) will be charged on June 1st and July camp tuition (Week #3-#6) will be charged on July 1st.



May/June Birthday Celebrations

5/29 (Th) & 5/30 (F):
May Birthdays

6/5 (Th) & 6/6 (F): June Birthdays

May 26th (Monday):
School Closed for
Memorial Day



May 28th (Wednesday):
Staff meeting~ **NO**
LUNCH BUNCH

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God

2025

CALENDAR YEAR

MAY

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01	02 12pm- AA- LH	03 10am- Sat. of Sis- LH 11am-Iverson- Cel. of Life 6-9pm AA- LH
04 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	05 12pm- AA- LH	06 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	07 12pm- AA- LH	08	09 945-12pm- St Joes- Sanc 12pm- AA- LH	10 6-9pm AA- LH
11 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	12 830-1130- St Joes- S&LH 12pm- AA- LH	13 830-12- St Joes- S&LH 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	14 12pm- AA- LH 6-8pm- AA Leadership Mtg-LH	15 6-8pm- Cub Scouts- LH	16 12pm- AA- LH	17 6-9pm AA- LH
18 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	19 12pm- AA- LH	20 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	21 12pm- AA- LH 6pm- Exec Committee 7pm- Council- LH	22	23 12pm- AA- LH	24 6-9pm AA- LH
25 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	26 12pm- AA- LH Office Closed-Mem. Day	27 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	28 12pm- AA- LH	29	30 12pm- AA- LH	31 6-9pm AA- LH
01	02	03	04	05	06	07