



# THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos  
Lutheran Church

September 2025

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

Come Join us for  
**God's Work, Our Hands**  
**Sunday, Sept 7th**

We need your help to make these things happen  
on GWOH Sunday we will have a shortened worship service  
still at 10am.

Then start our respective projects in Luther Hall  
When our work is done, we'll sit down together for a Potluck Lunch.  
Donna Huber and Jan Parthemer will be coordinating the Potluck.

Everyone can bring a dish to share  
Beverages, plates, napkins and utensils will be provided.  
Jan and Donna will be in the kitchen prior to the 10am service to take food  
items and put things in the  
refrigerator and set up the tables for the potluck  
Any questions please contact Donna Huber or Jan Parthemer.



It appears that there are emails/text messages being sent from a person representing themselves as Pastor Casey. Religious organizations have become easy targets for these types of scams, which take advantage of people's generosity. Just a reminder, no one on the SMLC staff will ever email or text asking for you to send money, gift cards, perform "some tasks" for them, click a link to learn more, or include a vague message asking for a "favor" and for you to respond immediately. Please delete such emails and don't reply back or click on any links contained within the message. If you have any questions, please call the church office for assistance.

*God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good—very good. – Genesis 1:31a*

I am sitting down to write this on the First Day of School—not for me, though I am sure you can imagine that I was delighted to return to school each fall of the 20 years I spent going from kindergarten through seminary. It is Mr. Dunsworth's return to the classroom; these days I only go back to school by association.

If you are not a student or an educator or a person whose life revolves around semesters or quarters, I wonder if you (like me) still feel a sense of newness arriving at this time of year. In one of my favorite movies, 1998's *You've Got Mail*, stars Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks wax poetic about autumn—it makes them want to buy school supplies. (He'd send her a bouquet of sharpened pencils, if he knew her name and address.)

Our Jewish siblings share in this schedule, as their New Year celebration happens in September. Rosh Hashanah celebrates God's good work of creation, and begins on the evening of September 22 this year. This holiday is marked with several traditions, the most delicious of which is to usher in a "sweet" new year by eating apples and honey.

The Church's new year celebration is in late November, on the first Sunday of Advent. That'll be here before we know it, but not yet! We do, though, enter into a slightly different rhythm here as the seasons change. This month kicks off with God's Work Our Hands on Sunday, September 7; we'll have an abbreviated worship service to bless the hands that will do the work of serving our neighbors. There is more information about the projects we'll be completing in this newsletter.

Later in the month, we'll observe the International Day of Peace and enjoy Committee Sunday during Community Time—both on September 21. Come to worship to let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (Colossians 3:15) and to learn about all the good work being done here at SMLC—which you can join in as the Spirit moves you!

We'll be joined on Sunday, September 28 by the Palomar Chamber Singers, who will offer their gifts of song during our liturgy—their concert is the following Saturday, October 4, also in our sanctuary. (If you plan to attend that concert, be sure to get your tickets in advance, as it will sell out.)

There is much to look forward to as a community as we transition—though still in Ordinary Time—out of summer and into the fall. What good things are you anticipating these days? Where do you see God's good creation (yourself included, beloved child!) coming to life in this new season? Let's keep these seasonal metaphors going—what goodness are you harvesting?

God is at work in you in every season. God is at work in our congregation, urging us onward in our pursuits of community, peace, justice, gratitude, joy—and many other good things. There is a place for you, however new or not-so-new you feel you are, in this community and in the family of God.

Peace,  
Pastor Casey

**San Marcos Lutheran Church**

3419 Grand Avenue San Marcos, CA 92078  
(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, Crystal, Celia  
Genishi Jolene Hanson, Bill Hanson, Mike  
Hudlow, Pete Johnson, Jim Kent, Linda Kent,  
Gary Kloehn, Laura, Deborah McGregor,  
Melinda Nelson, Alvar Roy, 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, August 8th 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**

Saturday, Sept. 6th 10am  
in Luther Hall

This is a bible study for women, led by women, about women. Last month we wrapped up our study on Ruth. In September, we will focus on kinship and kindness. Who will the next woman of the bible be. No need to RSVP, a spot is waiting for you! Come and find out! Questions? Contact Karin Kupka at 760-415-2525 or karinkupka533@hotmail.com

## Financial Update

End of July 2025- 58.3% of Year

### Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$175,040	54.11%

### Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$179,863	55.60%

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

*thank you*  
♥

### Join The Choir

The Summer is over and the Choir will be returning in September .

Won't you please consider joining us in this joyful ministry!

If you can sing the hymns,  
you could sing in the Choir.

We practice on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm  
beginning on September 4th.

Hope to see you there

Call Max at 760-521-5793 for more information

## Social Action



### All Saint's Food Pantry

Thanks to Jill Adachi for her many years with the pantry, including coordinating everything, picking up food from the Food Bank (and Brother Benno's until someone else volunteered), being there on Saturdays, and being a welcoming presence to our clients. Now she and Wayne can enjoy their many travels without having to work around the 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Needs continue for the items we either run out of or seldom find at the Food Bank - canned tuna, chicken, jam, salad dressings, mayonnaise, mustard, and catsup. Anything is welcome, as we give away a lot on distribution days. People always leave with smiles. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Preschool Pizza Fridays

We are starting off the school year in a new way and offering Pizza Fridays all month of September. We would love to promote Lunch Bunch participation from 12pm-1pm with your help. Would you sponsor a Pizza Friday for \$20? Take a "pizza slice" with the date on it and donate via church. Cash is always welcome!

Thank you for your continued support for the littles;  
here's to their smiles! Blessings, Mrs Leong

### Council Updates:

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

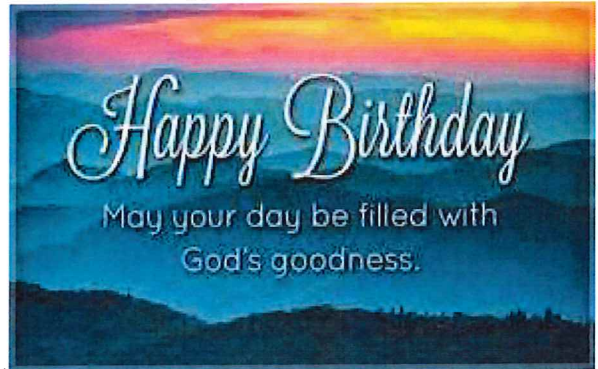
After taking a summer break for July, the Council met on August 20 for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports. The Council considered 3 items of business: 1) the Council approved the section from the Ministry Events Policy that described the volunteer and committee involvement, and food policy; 2) the Council approved the final Ministry Event Policy, and 3) the Council approved the recommendation from the Property and Infrastructure committee to replace the supplemental HVAC unit for the office building and sanctuary.

Lastly, the Council discussed the upcoming committee appointments required in our constitution including the Nominating Committee and Budget Committee. These are important committees that help to determine the path forward for SMLC into next year. The Council also discussed the Stewardship committee and its needs as we begin the season of stewardship and financial pledging for 2026. If you have interest in serving on these committees please contact Pastor Casey or Dan Norris.

Now that the final Ministry Event Policy has been approved by the Council, these important policies to guide organizers are now available for use. The policy is not written as a strict set of rules, but rather a tool to help event organizers plan and execute ministry events easily and efficiently with many of the often asked questions already answered. If you would like to organize a ministry event involving our surrounding community please contact Pastor Casey to plan.

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.

Dan Norris, Council President



**Sept 7**                      **13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 First Reading: Duet 30 15-20  
 Second Reading: Philemon 1-21  
 Gospel: Luke 14 25-33

**Sept 14**                      **14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 First Reading: Num 21:4b-9  
 Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-24  
 Gospel: John 3:13-17

**Sept 21**                      **15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 First Reading: Amos 8:4-7  
 Second Reading: 1 Tim 2:1-7  
 Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

**Sept. 28**                      **16th Sunday after Penecost**  
 First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
 Second Reading: 1 Tim 6:6-19  
 Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Sept 1 Shelby Armstrong  
 Sept 3 Anne Voth  
 Sept 4 Marilyn Monell  
 Sept 4 Gregory Szepe  
 Sept 5 Leanne Pohrman  
 Sept 6 Kaison Moeller  
 Sept 9 Jill Adachi  
 Sept 9 Janice Phillips  
 Sept 10 Wayne Adachi  
 Sept 13 Beth Sullivan  
 Sept 14 Karin Kupka  
 Sept 15 Jade Garcia  
 Sept 16 Richard Carreon  
 Sept 17 Liam Logsdon  
 Sept 18 Helga Batsford  
 Sept 19 Vivian Johnson  
 Sept 19 Shawn Logsdon  
 Sept 19 Karla Strazicich-Cain  
 Sept 22 Ian Liu  
 Sept 22 Rick Shoup  
 Sept 25 Donna Johnson

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



# SMLC CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS September 2025



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

## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

Welcome, September! It's been so fun getting to know our friends and playing outdoors and learning in our new classrooms. The new month brings us the start of Scholastic Books and Chapel Time! We will begin our first walking "field trip" to the church on September 3rd and 4th.

I would also like to introduce to you your Parent Rep for this school year. Nichole Manganiello (Ben & Juliet's mommy). She will be attending the Preschool Board meetings with me, helping with any school fundraisers and encouraging everyone to get involved! Thank you for your generous donations from our Back-to-School Wishlist. We are feeling so grateful as we start this school year!

Blessings, *Mrs. Leong*

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Monday, Sept 1st:** School Closed for Labor Day!

**Wednesday, Sept 24th:** School closed at 12pm for staff meeting~ NO LUNCH BUNCH on this day!

**Thursday, Sept 25th and Friday, Sept 26th:** Birthday Celebrations for our September Birthdays. If your child has a birthday this month, you will receive a separate reminder e-mail to bring cookies. Thank you!



## God's Work. Our Hands.

Come and join us for a day of service on **Sunday, September 7th** from **10am-12pm**. The

Preschool group will be making home-made cards/drawings for patients at Palomar Hospital Escondido. Bring a dish to share and stay for potluck afterwards! All ages and abilities are welcome :)

## Tips for transitioning from summer to the school year:

As we move from the lazy days of summer to a more scheduled routine, it's easy to forget that your preschooler might not understand why things have to change. So it's important that you are taking the time to communicate with them what is happening. If you need to get up earlier, then make it a family discussion. Be excited and positive about school! Have your preschooler lay out their clothing they will wear the night before, and if they are staying for lunch have them help pack what they will bring. The more involved you make your preschooler in the routine of getting ready for school, the easier it will be for them to understand the changes...and remember we are here to help!

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God

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Sunday, September 7

# God's work. Our hands.

Join us for a special  
day of community and  
fun!

We'll begin the day with a short,  
welcoming worship service, then  
join together for our community  
service projects. Afterwards, we'll  
celebrate with a delicious potluck  
lunch for everyone to enjoy!



## PROJECTS INCLUDE

- ✓ Kindness Rock Painting
- ✓ Blessing Bags
- ✓ Sack Lunches
- ✓ Birthday Party Boxes



**WORSHIP BEGINS: 10AM**

For More Info  
**760-727-1509**

Visit Our Website  
[www.sanmarcoslutheran.org](http://www.sanmarcoslutheran.org)



# COMMITTEE SUNDAY

Each of our church committees will have a table during community time where you can stop by, ask questions, and learn more about what they do!

## COMMITTEES INCLUDE:

- Worship
- Faith Formation
- Social Action
- Fellowship
- Property
- Member Care & Visitation
- Evangelism
- Stewardship
- Endowment
- Nominating, Budget, and other ad hoc committees

**09.21.2025**

**What does it mean to serve God and your community at SMLC through a leadership position? *It is less scary and more rewarding than you might think.***

The business of the church is done by the Congregation Council, setting the table for the ministry of the congregation.

Each year, we elect members to our Congregation Council for three-year terms. Members may seek re-election and remain on the council for a second consecutive term. There are also officers on the council—President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Currently, our officers are Dan Norris, Kelly Van Jen, Anne Voth, and Jan Parthemer, respectively.

At our Congregational Meeting in December, we need to elect a new Treasurer as well as up to three new Council Members. Perhaps God is calling you to serve in this way, but you're unsure exactly what you'd be getting yourself into. Here's a basic overview of what those roles are about, so you can prayerfully consider them:

**Council Members are responsible for:**

- Attending council meetings on the third Wednesday of each month in Luther Hall. Meetings come to order at 7pm and finish around 8:30pm; those who wish gather at 6:30 to assemble sack lunches for asylum-seekers as part of our ministry with AMMPARO. (This, along with any preparation time, is the vast majority of the time commitment to serve on Council.)
- Preparing for our meetings by reading over the reports submitted by the Pastor, the President, the Bookkeeper, and the Committee Chairs, then bringing any questions about the content of those reports to the meeting for discussion. All these documents are housed on a Google Drive.
- Collaborating with the other members of the council on issues of finances and the property of the church, ensuring that we are being the best possible stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.
- Brainstorming creative solutions to the problems we encounter as we go about our ministry.
- Responding in a timely manner to communication from the President about any necessary email votes.

**In addition to their general responsibilities as a Council Member, the Treasurer is also responsible for:**

- Collaborating with the SMLC Bookkeeper to understand the general financial position of the congregation
- Communicating any questions or concerns from the Council to the Bookkeeper, and vice versa
- Signing checks on a schedule established with the Bookkeeper
- Serving on the annual Budget Committee, attending a handful of Zoom meetings in the fall and winter
- Collaborating with the Bookkeeper to present the budget at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February

To serve as a Council Member or as Treasurer, you do not have to have any experience serving on a council or board, or any experience reading financial statements. Everyone learns together! There is a whole community of existing council members and the staff of the congregation who want to make sure you feel comfortable and confident in your service. Questions are always welcome!

One last thing: in accordance with California state law, all members of the Congregation Council are required to undergo Live Scan background checks and to complete a two-hour online Mandated Reporter training. As leaders of the congregation, prioritizing the protection of our most vulnerable members is paramount. *If you have any questions about what this means, you can ask Pastor Casey or our Child Safety Coordinator, Karin Kupka.*

If you are prayerfully considering service on the Congregation Council and have questions not answered here, you have options! You can contact Congregation President Dan Norris, Pastor Casey, or chat with any current member of the council to get their perspective. Unsure who that is? Visit [sanmarcoslutheran.org/about/our-team](https://sanmarcoslutheran.org/about/our-team) to see the list. And, if you want to read the full description of the council's role in the ELCA Constitution, we can help you access that, too.

**Interested in learning more about our many committees? Committee Sunday is September 21st!**

## Curious about how ministry is organized at SMLC? There's a committee for that.

Several committees are engaged in the work of the gospel in our community. Some of them are standing (operate all the time) and some are *ad hoc* (operate for a short time on something specific). Our *ad hoc* committees are marked here with an asterisk.

Budget*	Evangelism	Fellowship	Property & Infrastructure	Stewardship*
Endowment	Faith Formation	Nominating*	Social Action	Worship & Music

Each of these committees has a chairperson, some of whom currently serve on the Congregation Council; serving as a committee chair *does not* require you to also serve on the Council. It used to! The rules changed.

Our committees operate interdependently, collaborating on events and campaigns. If you have a question or an observation about something going on at SMLC, it is likely that there is a committee working on that. They'd love to hear from you! If you want to join a committee, they'd like to hear about that, too. The committee chairs are listed on our website at [sanmarcoslutheran.org/about/our-team](http://sanmarcoslutheran.org/about/our-team), but you can also contact the office to get the right person's name and contact information. Every committee is seeking more members all the time, so don't be shy!

*This fall, a few specific committees could use your help.*

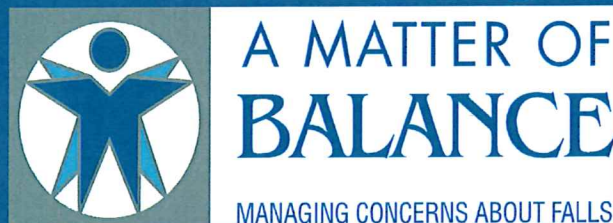
The **stewardship** committee is technically an *ad hoc* committee, but it operates for several months of the year, paying attention to how the congregation's income is matching up with pledge commitments from the previous fall, and working toward the new year's stewardship campaign. Serving on this committee does not mean you have to ask people for money—especially if that scares you! The role of the stewardship committee is to communicate to the congregation how their generosity supports the mission of the church year-round, and to invite contributions of time, talent, and treasure. You'll never know who gives what—the bookkeeper handles that. If you have ideas about how to encourage everyone in our community to give what they can to sustain the work that we do, how to invite people to visit and invite visitors to stick around, or how to share your own stories of what you value about being part of SMLC, you're a great fit for the stewardship committee.

The **nominating** committee has the very specific role of spending October and November figuring out who will stand for election to the Congregation Council in December. Two members of the current council will serve alongside you. If you like chatting with everyone after worship, feel like you have a good sense of who might be a great fit for leadership, or would be willing to contact specific people and ask them about their willingness to serve, you're a great fit for the nominating committee.

The **evangelism** committee only technically exists, as nobody is currently serving on it—except Pastor Casey, who is an *ex officio* member of every committee. Experts tell us that people come to church because they have a relationship with people there, so evangelism is about ensuring that it is easy, fun, and meaningful to build relationships with people at SMLC. That looks like a lot of things, none of which include going door-to-door in our neighborhood and telling people about Jesus. Phew! But if you have ideas about keeping our campus beautiful and accessible, building relationships with the people who visit SMLC throughout the week, or engaging with things that are happening in San Marcos that need our attention and our Lutheran witness, you're a great fit for the evangelism committee.

If you have questions about these or any committees, contact Pastor Casey. And **stick around after worship on September 21 for Committee Sunday**—each committee will be represented during Community Time in Luther Hall, ready to answer your questions and tell you about the great ministry they are doing over a cup of coffee.

# DO YOU HAVE concerns about falling?



**Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.**

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

#### **YOU WILL LEARN TO:**

view falls as controllable  
set goals for increasing activity  
make changes to reduce fall risks at home  
exercise to increase strength and balance

#### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

anyone concerned about falls  
anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength  
anyone who has fallen in the past  
anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

Luther Hall  
**TUESDAY  
&  
THURSDAYS  
9:30-11:30  
AM  
9/30-10/23**

**Program fee is \$25.00**  
For more information, please  
call  
Beth Sullivan  
847-254-0212  
**[drbesullivan@gmail.com](mailto:drbesullivan@gmail.com)**

#### **A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls Volunteer Lay Leader Model ©2006**

This program is based on Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance. Copyright ©1995 Trustees of Boston University. All rights reserved. Used and adapted by permission of Boston University.

#### **A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model**

*Recognized for Innovation and Quality in Healthcare and Aging, 2006, American Society on Aging.*

*A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model was developed by a grant from the Administration on Aging (#90AM2780).*

2025

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01 12pm- AA- LH	02 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	03 12pm- AA- LH	04 7pm- Choir practice-SA	05 945-1145- St Joes- SA AA- LH	06 10am- Sat of Sister- LH 6-9pm AA- LH
07 10am- GWOH	08 12pm- AA- LH	09 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	10 12pm- AA- LH	11 7pm- Choir practice-SA	12 12pm- AA- LH	13 6-9pm AA- LH
14 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	15 12pm- AA- LH	16 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	17 12pm- AA- LH 6pm- Exec Comm. Mtg - LH 7pm- Council Mtg	18 7pm- Choir practice-SA	19 12pm- AA- LH	20 6-9pm AA- LH
21 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time/Committee Sunday	22 12pm- AA- LH	23 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	24 12pm- AA- LH	25 4-6pm- Pr Casey's office hrs. 7pm- Choir practice-SA	26 12pm- AA- LH	27 10a-3pm- Palomar Singers Retreat- LH & SA 9pm AA- LH
28 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	29 12pm- AA- LH	30 930-1130- Balance Wksp - LH 7- 9pm- Music Men- LH	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11