

Martin Luther's Preface to The Large Catechism

Some of you may not know but our Bible study (that takes place in between services on Sunday) is doing a devotional together “*40-days Journey with Martin Luther*” it’s almost a mini confirmation class and we’re **ALL** getting so much out of it. Each one something different and some of us similar revelations. Walking through this made me think of this pending article for April, which is the first month of the year, in the time of the Israelites and Biblical history. I felt led to allow any and all of you that wanted a peak into what we are currently blessed to walk through as a ‘refresher’ for why we believe what we believe, and why we worship the way that we worship, but most importantly, why we believe we can have a direct relationship with God through His Word.

Without further ado, I give you snippets of the Preface for the *Large Catechism* as written by Martin Luther.



But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher; yes, as learned and experienced as all the people who have such assumptions and contentment. Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so. Yet these delicate, refined fellows would in one reading promptly become doctors above all doctors, know everything, and need nothing. Well, this, too, is a sure sign that they despise both their office and the souls of the people. Indeed, they even despise God and His Word. They do not have to fall. They have already fallen all too horribly. They need to become children and begin to learn their alphabet, which they imagine they have long outgrown

Mark 10:15

¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Besides, catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God’s Word, to speak it, and meditate on it, just as the first Psalm declares people

blessed who meditate on God's Law day and night.

Psalm 1:2

² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Certainly you will not release a stronger incense or other repellent against the devil than to be engaged by God's commandments and words, and speak, sing, or think them.

Colossians 3:16

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

For this is indeed the true "holy water" and "holy sign" from which the devil runs and by which he may be driven away.

James 4:7

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Now, for this reason alone you ought gladly to read, speak, think, and use these things, even if you had no other profit and fruit from them than driving away the devil and evil thoughts by doing so. For he cannot hear or endure God's Word. God's Word is not like some other silly babbling, like the story about Dietrich of Berne, for example. But as St. Paul says in **Romans 1:16**, it is "the power of God." Yes indeed, it is the power of God that gives the devil burning pain and strengthens, comforts, and helps us beyond measure.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

If these reasons were not enough to move us to read the catechism daily, we should feel bound well enough by God's command alone. He solemnly commands in **Deuteronomy 6:6–8** that we should always meditate on His precepts, sitting, walking, standing, lying down, and rising. We should have them before our eyes and in our hands as a constant mark and sign. Clearly He did not solemnly require and command this without a purpose. For He knows our danger and need, as well as the constant and furious assaults and temptations of devils. He wants to warn, equip, and preserve us against them, as with a good armor against their fiery darts [**Ephesians 6:10–17**] and with good medicine against their evil infection and temptation.

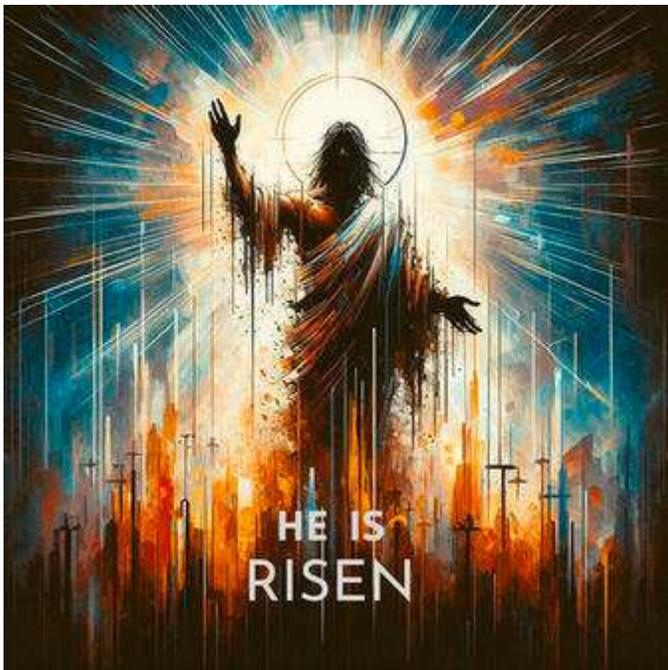
Deuteronomy 6:6–8

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Ephesians 6:10–17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against

the schemes of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,



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Confessions, Pocket Edition. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Source:

<https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/large-catechism/preface/>

~ Jaime Doganes

CALL COMMITTEE

Stand by the MSP has been approved and submitted to the Synod, and so, we wait. Pray for God to guide and lead us to our shepherd.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Hello everyone. We pray blessings to you and yours this Lenten season, which, by the way, ends with **Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9 a.m.** At this point, we direct our focus to Jerusalem as we walk with Jesus to the Cross. This is also **Preschool Sunday** and we will celebrate by having a picnic style brunch in the Preschool yard. This is a great opportunity to meet parents and get to know them. Don't forget your lawn chairs and/or blanket!

For Holy week; **Maunday Thursday** services are being held at several different area churches. The last Courier included the list, and there is a copy posted in the church Narthex. Typically, this service includes the last supper so communion is offered. In addition, the altar is stripped of all items including any banners.

Good Friday service at 7 p.m. will be conducted here as we read again the seven last words of Christ from the cross. Special music is planned, and we will again pound selected nails

into the foot of the cross. The tone of this service is very somber as we realize we, too, crucified the Lord with our sins, and we grieve His death.

Easter Sunday services will return to our regular schedule of two services (9 and 11 am). Prepare to bring out your Alleluias and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Redeemer!

At some point after Easter, the Worship and Music Committee will issue a survey to the congregation. We have had a few single services, and we need to know how YOU feel about them. What do you like, and what do we need to do better? This information will help us make worship a better experience for you. These single services are designed primarily as a way to get both service attendees **together to worship and fellowship**. Your input is vital to its success, and we thank you in advance for your feedback.

Christ has prepared a way for us to be with Him forever. We are blessed and can only say:

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Submitted by Pam Garcia for the Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WANTED- ST. LUKE'S PROPERTY CHAIR

HOURS: AS NEEDED

PURPOSE: TO OVERSEE THE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF ALL PROPERTY OF THE CONGREGATION. *(page 24 of the constitution)*

REQUIREMENTS:

- ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS AS YOU ARE ABLE, OR SUBMIT A WRITTEN UPDATE IN YOUR ABSENCE.
- BRING ANY FINANCIAL NEEDS BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.
- ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATION.
- PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CONGREGATION.
- SET UP WORK DAYS TO SOLICIT CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT IN COMPLETING REPAIRS AND OTHER WORK.

TENURE TIME: TWO YEARS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ASSIST, CONGREGATION AT LARGE AS THEY ARE WILLING.

If you are interested, reach out to any Council member, and thank you for offering to serve the Church.

No experience required

WANTED – PRESCHOOL MANAGEMENT BOARD/COMMITTEE

HOURS: ATTEND MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, AND AS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

PURPOSE: AS A BOARD, TO OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF ST. LUKE'S CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL SO THAT THE PRESCHOOL ACHIEVES ITS DISTINCTIVE PURPOSE AS EXPRESSED IN THE PRESCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT. (Taken from page 22 of the constitution)

REQUIREMENTS:

- SUPPORT THE DIRECTOR
- SET UP (WITH THE DIRECTOR) AND ATTEND PRESCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS.
- ENCOURAGE AT LEAST ONE CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER TO BE PART OF THE BOARD IN ORDER TO REPRESENT THE CHURCH.
- SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CONGREGATION.
- WORK WITH THE TREASURER TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL BUDGET.

TENURE: TWO YEARS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: PRESCHOOL PARENTS AND CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS WHO ARE WILLING TO HELP.

If you are interested, reach out to any Council member, and thank you for offering to serve the Church.

No experience required

~ Pam Garcia for the Nominating committee

MISSIONS

Thank you to the St. Luke family for all the generous donations for the Easter gift bags. It truly was a team effort—especially filling more than 100 bags after the soup supper!

The Easter bag project for Lutheran Social Services was a wonderful success. We were able to deliver the bags last week, and they were very appreciative. I'm sure the children who receive them will be excited to open bags filled with Easter eggs, candy, and toys—but most of all, filled with love from our congregation. The

bags were decorated so creatively and beautifully. A special shoutout to Gretchen, Barit, and my sister Del for helping with the delivery. Thank you, ladies!

And once again, thank you to the entire St. Luke family. We are so blessed to be part of such a generous and loving church that is always willing to give to those in need.

Happy Easter!



Jocelyn

Fellowship Committee

What's Going On at St Luke's!

We continue to have a great selection of tasty soups at our weekly Tuesday Soup Suppers. It's a fun time to hang out and socialize. We are talking about sharing all of the Soup Supper recipes and maybe even creating a cookbook. Stay tuned. More to

come.



Last week's Soup Supper included a project to assemble Welcome Baskets for

Lutheran Social Services. We stuffed three

large laundry baskets with all kinds of household and personal items. They go to families that LSS is placing in housing for the first time.

We had a great time at this week's Soup Supper! The hot temperatures led us to



have our gathering on the patio in the cool evening air. So much fun! Afterward we all joined the assembly line to stuff the 100+ Easter bags that many from our St Lukes family had decorated. The Welcome baskets and Easter bags were delivered this week to LSS . The LSS Manager Wendy was so appreciative of our donations and told us that two of the Welcome Baskets would go that day to two young people moving into new residences. The Easter bags would be given out at their big Easter party where they expect about 200 kids. It's so gratifying to see how our small church can have such an impact.

Lots of nice views of the Queen Mary and other nearby landmarks. Brunch afterwards was at the Yardhouse. Walks are usually the 2nd week of the month but next month we will be participating in a special MS Fundraiser walk at El Dorado Park East on Saturday April 25.

Weekly Bible study is continuing "40 days with Martin Luther". Come and join us! We're learning just how much this pioneer of our faith has to say in our world today. The group meets on Sunday between services.

Due to conflicts, our Easter Pancake breakfast has to be re-scheduled. Our weekly announcements will be updated once a new date has been selected.

Berit Bode & Erin McCuan **Berit Bode & Erin McCuan**

Join our **Walk MS team! Or share our team link with everyone you know to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$2,500.00. This will go into research towards a cure and even help those who cannot afford treatment. Hope to see you out there!**

Walking with Purpose Team!

Our



Walking with a Purpose group met at Shoreline Aquatic Park Loop in Long Beach this month.





St. Luke's Christian Preschool April



TANAKA FARMS FIELDTRIP

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 / Bus leaves **9AM**
10:30AM – Noon/ Tour @ Tanaka Farms
1PM return to SLCP
\$35 student fee



Don't forget to
ORDER YOUR
ST. LUKE'S
SHIRT TODAY!



SATURDAY, MAY 16th

KIDCHELLA

"40" YEARS OF SHARING GOD'S LOVE"

**Week of the Young Child, May
16– 22nd**

"The purpose of The Week of the Young Child is to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families and to support the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs."
National Association Education of Young Children

BOOSTER CLUB

ST. LUKE'S RISING STAR BOOSTERS PRESENTS...

2ND ANNUAL BUBBLE RUN

24 APRIL

3:30 PM

WHERE: GRASSY AREA BETWEEN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Bubbles, Music, Fitness & Fun!

Wear your favorite colorful shirt or tutu | Snacks, refreshments & photo apps | Families are invited to cheer & bubble blast students as they run around the track!

3:30PM - WILLOWS, CEIBAS, CHERRIES 3:45PM - MAPLES & PINES

Dates To Remember:

- 4/3 Good Friday / School Closed
- 4/5 He Has Risen! **EASTER Service**
- 4/7 **Tanaka Farms** Field Trip
- Week of: Parent / Teacher Conferences
- 4/13-17
- 4/24 **Bubble Run** fundraiser
- 5/2 Spring Clean-Up



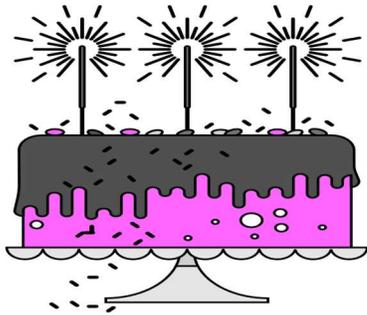
**FRIDAY, APRIL
24th**

SLCP'S 2ND BUBBLE RUN !!!
LET'S CHEER ON OUR
ST. LUKE'S KIDS



Parent / Teacher Conferences

We believe parent-teacher conferences are crucial for building a partnership between home and school, aligning on a child's developmental milestones, and identifying early intervention needs. These meetings foster trust, allowing parents to share home-life context and teachers to share classroom observations, ensuring a consistent and supportive learning environment.
M-Willow/ T-Ceiba/ W-Cherry/ Th-Maple/ F-Pine



APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

- April 4 Bryan Koenen
- April 7 Cooper Dunn
- April 20 Pastor Laurie Arroyo
- April 24 Denzil Dunn



Upcoming Events

- Apr 03 Good Friday Service @7pm
- Apr 05 Resurrection Sunday!! Two services offered. Pancake Brunch is postponed.
- Apr 07 Tanaka Farms Fieldtrip for the Preschool. 8:30am – 1:00pm
- Apr 09 Boosters Monthly Meeting @6:30pm
- Apr 11 Andy's Car Wash Fundraiser for the Rising Star Boosters!
- Apr 14 Worship & Music Committee meeting @7pm
- Apr 21 Preschool Board Meeting @6:30pm
- Apr 24 Bubble Run!! Support our Preschool kids as they raise money while doing a fun run @ the school @3:30pm
- Apr 25 WALK MS Long Beach!! Walking with Purpose team will gather @ El Dorado East @8:00am
- TBD BONUS WALK: This year is a super bloom year according to all sources and a trip to the poppy fields may happen!



- April 3 Rodney & Norma Reed
- April 6 Dan & Jocelyn Carlson
- April 18 Eric & Dara Ree
- April 20 Don & Nancy Larkin
- April 21 George & Kay Follett
- April 24 Bill & Berit Bode



Jesus Christ is Risen!! He is Risen Indeed!!



The Courier is the newsletter of
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Preschool

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

In-Person & Online Services

9AM & 11AM

ONLINE STREAMING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukeslongbeach>

Online giving link: sllc90808.churchcenter.com/giving

Come visit us soon! You are welcome here!

**St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
& Christian Preschool**

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Change Service Requested