The Courier

Volume 88 ~ Number 5 ~ May 2026

I was led in prayer to really dig in and breakdown Psalm 23 which ties into our season, our walk, and where our Father in heaven is leading us to. We have a good shepherd in Jesus, a Father in heaven that loves us so much he sacrificed His one and only Son, and the Holy Spirit or helper that remains a remnant that is within us all, if we just believe.

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

The very first verse evokes images and feelings of provision and being protected by God. The word "my" is important as we usually refer to Yahweh as "Our Father" or even in the Old Testament being known as the God of Israel, but He's also an individual God. He's the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and He's ours, yours. We have a relationship with Him as a body of Christ and as an individual child of God. "I shall not want" points to God being our provider. Jehovah Jireh.

2 He makes me lie down in
green pastures. He leads me beside
still waters.

3 He restores my soul. He leads me
in paths of righteousness for
his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.

When we make our way to verses 2-4 we are given imagery and examples of the "shepherd" which points to care, provision, guidance, and His presence in our day to day walk. A good shepherd cares for his sheep, knows each one by name, personality, he leads, restores, and guides. Because of this covenant promise from a covenant keeping God we can rest and say "I will fear no evil". The rod and staff are used to guide a path or to protect from wild animals, green pastures means a place where we will be satisfied and filled. A shepherd is always moving with their sheep through seasons, terrain, and circumstances, always to get them to a place of safety that will still feed them, provide for them. Quiet waters makes us envision rest, and being able to drink without feeling rushed or like we don't have enough. "He leads me" is huge, it shows God's with us, even when we stray off the path and into the darkness, Jesus is there. He is our good shepherd (John 10:1-10) and we are his sheep that know His voice. He calls us by name "for his name's sake" meaning we are His people. Even in the darkest of hours, He is with us.

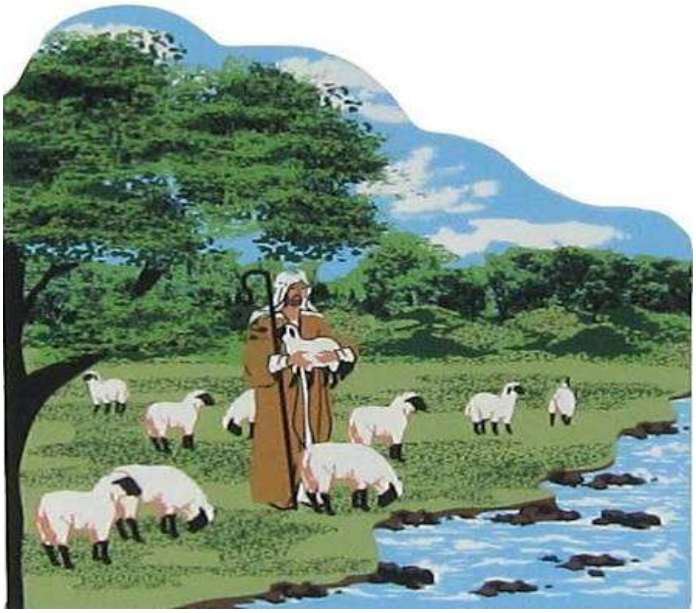
5 You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

The LORD is the host at a banquet table laden with food and drink, one that we get to partake of as believers. In ancient times a banquet host would anoint the heads of his guests with oil infused with perfumes added to olive oil. Something we do in Baptism, and when we receive our ashes on Ash Wednesday. Saul was anointed first king of Israel, David followed, Jesus was anointed shortly before going to the cross. An anointing is important in the faith journey with God. An overflowing cup makes us think of abundance and that we will always have more than enough because God is sufficient, Jesus dying on the cross was enough to save, and the Holy Spirit baptizing in fire is more than sufficient in leading us as doers of faith in our church, community, nation, and families. Moreover the Lord vindicates us even in the "presence of my enemies" meaning He is standing with us. In His presence we can lay down our worries, anxieties, and fears. We can "let go, and let God."

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of
the LORD forever.

The "goodness" of God is demonstrated every day in His abundant care, promises, and all the evidence of His love and blessing that we're surrounded by. God makes a covenantal promise over and over again through His word that stretches through all time to us here and now and even more so. We can be assured that these promises will be and that we will get to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."



Because He said so, Jesus said so, disciples turned apostles said so, prophets from times of old said so and we got to see that prophecy be fulfilled in Jesus. We too are prophecy fulfilled, we were created "for a time such as this" we were meant to walk with God, it's our true purpose ever since the beginning of creation. We GET to have an everlasting fellowship with God the Father, creator of heaven and earth, with Jesus Christ, God made man, His only Son our Lord, with the ever omnipresent helper the Holy Spirit, the wisdom that teaches, chastises, and shows us God's love. How amazing is that? Amen? AMEN! ***~Jaime Doganes***

CALL COMMITTEE

Pray for God to guide and lead us to our shepherd. Pray for our Committee to walk in purpose.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Christ Is Risen, Alleluia! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Being that our little congregation makes BIG things happen, it was a time to get together and enjoy each other's company while breaking bread. Our Soup/Sup Tuesdays were special. Additionally, it was lovely to see a couple of our preschool families join us. The soups, side dishes and desserts were DELISH!! Thank you, Erin McCuan, Patsy Nix, Bill & Berit Bode, Jocelyn & Dan Carlson, Mia Van Dyk, Pam Garcia, Gretchen Ely, Leslie Andersen, Page Cano, Megan Gomez, Candice Pearson, Cia Salisbury, Carl & Cheryl Coleman!

I'd like to send a special shout out to our A/V technician and church administrator Jaime Doganes for all she does with our audio and visual technology while managing the church office and all tasks that go along with those positions. She is driven by her faith and love of Christ which lends to her passion for serving our God and our congregation. We are also grateful for her spiritual leadership with bible study. Bible study meets between services each Sunday. If you want to explore your faith further, and learn more about Christ and the Lutheran faith, please check out the bible study group.

Our Palm Sunday/Preschool Sunday combined service was lovely. How sweet it was watching these little one's worship with those eyes and arms wide open followed by a lovely picnic and egg hunt on our preschool grounds. Being that it was our first combined service, we will be sending out a survey to get your feedback on what you liked or didn't like about it, and what we can do to improve the combined service should we have one again.

Holy week – although we only had a Good Friday service, the commitment to the Passion was there and present in each person who attended. Thank you to Pastor Laurie, and to our readers; Pam Garcia, Bob Erickson, Gretchen Ely, Candice Pearson, Cia Salisbury and Jaime Doganes.

Of course, after Good Friday, we must set up and prepare the sanctuary for Christs resurrection. Easter Sunday was a time to rejoice and be glad in everything good. In helping prepare the sanctuary, Cia, Gretchen, Pam and Jaime got together and made it beautiful, worthy of His resurrection.

And so, we come to Easter Sunday! A truly awesome time of the year. Although our numbers were down this year, people were present to acknowledge the resurrection of our Christ.

Big thanks to our Greeters- Bob & Sharon Erickson, Dan Carlson, Pam Garcia, Carl Coleman and our fabulous Alter Guild ladies; Pam Anderson, Pam Garcia, Gretchen Ely.

We also want to acknowledge our church musicians. 1st service- Rich Faugno, Cia Salisbury, Bryan Koenen, Jon Krueger, Candice Pearson, Rodney Reed. Our voices raised in song also include our 2nd service worship assistants, Cia Salisbury, Cheryl Coleman, Gretchen Ely and Pam Garcia.

Thank you all again,
Your sister in Christ
Cia Salisbury, W&M

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A little late but……

I know this is after the fact, BUT, have you ever noticed the weather during Holy Week? It's like God is trying to talk to us via the clouds and breeze and sun all mixed together. Maybe this is just specific to Southern California, but I seriously doubt it. Maybe too, this is more dramatic to those of us who don't have work, or demands that take the entire day.

Try to remember: Palm Sunday could be anything from bright sunshine to clouds and possible rain. This is similar to Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a donkey (sunshine), and later driving out the vendors in the temple (clouds/rain), don't you think? Then the week begins with unusual skies; a mix of clouds and sun. There even seems to be a "quietness" to the day; like anticipation. The temperature is comfortable: not too warm or too cold. It is like it is almost TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE weather.

By Thursday evening the night seems very cool; a bit ominous. Nature seems to hesitate to engage with the world. Birds chirp less; everything seems to want to huddle in seclusion.

Friday, ah, Friday comes charging in very deliberately. The day typically begins sunny, but clouds, always clouds come in later. From noon to 3 pm, it appears the entire world is silent, unsteady as to what may happen next. After three p.m. the world seems to kick back into gear and becomes more "regular". Saturday even seems like a typical day.

Maybe it is just me, but I sense these weather changes every year. I encourage you all, next year, to pay a little more attention to the weather during Holy Week. I truly believe this is God's opportunity to put US into the Holy Week story; walking with Christ to Calvary. It brings the message home, at least to me, in a much more powerful way.

WANTED- ST. LUKE'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR

HOURS: AS NEEDED

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES/ACTIVITIES. *(page19 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.**
- **COORDINATE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM INCLUDUNG ANY SUPPLIES NEEDED; SOLICIT VOLUNTEERS AS TEACHERS/ WORK WITH PRESCHOOL TO ASSIST IN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IF ASKED.**

TENURE TIME: TWO YEARS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ASSIST, TEACHERS, 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

Enjoy Spring everyone! ~ ***Pam Garcia for the Nominating committee***

WANTED – EVANGELISM CHAIRPERSON

HOURS: AS NEEDED.

PURPOSE: TO INVOLVE MEMBERS IN FAITH-SHARING, INVITING OTHERS TO CHURCH, AND HOSPITALITY THAT ACCOMPLISHES CHRIST'S GREAT COMMISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES. ***(Taken from page 20 of the constitution)***

REQUIREMENTS:

- **ATTEND MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING AS YOU ARE ABLE, OR SUBMIT A WRITTEN UPDATE IN YOUR ABSENCE.**
- **DEVELOP WAYS TO GREET VISITORS, ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, PROVIDE INFORMATION .**
- **SEND OUT FOLLOWUP LETTER/EMAIL TO LET VISITORS KNOW THEY ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED.**
- **DEVELOP WAY TO ADVERTIZE THE CHURCH, AND INCLUDE WAYS TO REACH OUT TO UNCHURCHED IN THE AREA.**
- **SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CONGREGATION.**
- **WORK WITH THE TREASURER TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL BUDGET IF NEEDED. REPORT ANY FINANCIAL NEEDS TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL IF NOT BUDGETED.**

TENURE: TWO YEARS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 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

MISSIONS

Hey St. Luke's family nothing new to report as of yet for Missions and Outreach. We are always taking in donations of pantry items for LSS as there is a constant need for that. Also if you have any reusable grocery bags that you'd like to donate the need is great with the new laws in California regarding plastic bags. This is how LSS packs up the food items they give out from their pantry and the need is still there.

Thank you! Stay tuned for more soon…

Missions & Outreach

Fellowship Committee

What's Going On at St. Luke's! Fellowship Committee is coming back with an article next month but there were and are a lot of great things happening! Be sure to check out the calendar of events and as always your emails as information is sent out.

We are so excited heading into the end of the Preschool and school year and the activities that are "in the works"! Hang in there we have so many amazing Fellowship opportunities!

Berit Bode & Erin McCuan Fellowship Committee

St. Luke's Christian Preschool

MAY

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 4th – May 8th

Everyday our Booster Parents have designed a special way in which we can show our Teaching Staff just how special, important, loved & appreciated they are; wouldn't you agree???
Along with Boosters, we are asking all families to join in on this special week. Here's how you can participate…

Day:	Student Brings:
Monday	Flowers
Tuesday	Handmade card/Picture
Wednesday	Lottery Scratcher/ Small Gift card
Thursday	Sweet Treat/Fruit
Friday	Private Pampering/ Your choice

Mother's Day @ St. Luke's

Friday, May 8th, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

You are My Sunshine

You are invited to a special Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on our Preschool patio!

You are My Sunshine, oh so bright,
A lovely afternoon filled with delight.
With giggles, smiles, and hearts so true,
We have a special treat for you!

Please join us for a tea so sweet,
With tiny chairs and little treats.
Our preschoolers can't wait to say,
"How much we love you" on this day.

On May 8th, come laugh and play,
At 3:30 PM, don't be late, hooray!
We'll sip and smile till half past four,
With sunshine love and so much more.

So come, dear mothers, one and all,
To answer this sunshine call.
For in their eyes, it's plain to see…
You are their sunshine endlessly!

WHEN: SATURDAY, May, 2nd

TIME: 9 AM – Noon

NEEDS:

- **Shovels**
- **Rakes**
- **Wheel Barrel**
- **Garden & Basic Tools**

BUBBLE RUN RAISED $850.00 !!!!!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT

May 16–22, 2026

@ St. Luke's Christian Preschool

Get ready for one of the most exciting weeks of the year! 🎉
Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is a special celebration of early learning, creativity, and the joy of childhood. All week long, your child will enjoy hands-on activities designed to spark imagination, curiosity, and FUN!

👉 **Important:** Each day has a theme and suggested attire—don't forget to dress your child accordingly!

…a Family Kickoff Event

Saturday, May 16 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
40+ Year Community Celebration!

Bring the whole family for:

- Bounce House
- Talent Show
- Potluck, Hot Dogs & Burgers
- 🎟️ Teacher Date Raffle

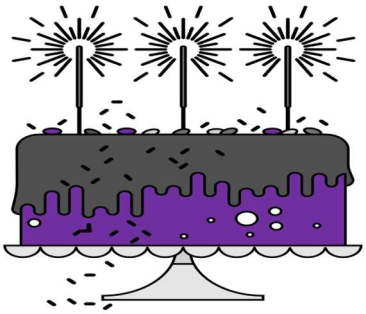
Daily Themes & Dress-Up Guide:

💡 Parent Tips

- Expect a little extra mess and a lot of extra smiles 😊
- Label clothing and send a change of clothes (especially for Wednesday!)
- Encourage your child to fully participate—it's all about fun and learning

🎸 **Monday, May 18 – Music Monday**	We'll sing, dance, and explore music while building early math and language skills.	👕 **Attire:** Rock Star Hair
🍕 **Tuesday, May 19 – Tasty Tuesday**	A delicious day of learning! We'll make our own pizza while exploring math, science, and teamwork.	**Attire:** "Tastefully Delicious" (food-themed or fun outfits)
🎨 **Wednesday, May 20 – Wacky Wednesday**	⚠️ **Warning: Your child WILL get messy!** A silly, sensory-filled day of mismatched fun and creativity.	**Attire:** White shirt (no nice clothes!)
💛 **Thursday, May 21 – Thoughtful Thursday**	A day focused on gratitude, kindness, and appreciation.	**Attire:** Pajamas or SLCP Spirit Wear
🖌️ **Friday, May 22 – Frame-It Friday**	Let creativity shine! We'll create art and celebrate imagination and self-expression.	**Attire:** Wear your **Wednesday masterpiece** (your child's decorated shirt!)

We can't wait to celebrate this joyful week with your children! 🎉



MAY BIRTHDAY'S

May 3	Tony Pearson
May 4	Dara Ree
May 5	Glenn Haas
May 8	Kellie Bernd

May 10	Nils & Patsy Magnuson

Upcoming Events

May 2	Campus Clean Up & Church Mouse Day
May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week @ our School!!
May 8	Mom Celebration @ our Preschool @3PM
May 9	Walking with Purpose ~ Heartwell Park Trail @9AM meet at parking lots on Bellflower & Carson
May 10	Mother's Day! Thank you to all the Moms!
May 14	Boosters Meeting @6:30PM
May 16	Kidchella! St. Luke's Family Picnic here at church @11:30AM
May 17	Habitat for Humanity "Raise the Roof" Wine tasting fundraising event
May 18-22	Week of the Young Child a themed week in our preschool!
May 19	Preschool Board Meeting @6:45PM
May 24	Pentecost!!
May 25	Memorial Day!! School & Office are closed.
May 30	eWaste here in the North Parking Lot @9AM
May 31	Holy Trinity Sunday!!

CHRIST IS RISEN!! HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!!

Why do you look for the living among the dead. He's not here He has risen!

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