The Courier

Volume 91 ~ Number 8 ~ September 2026

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Why focus on **Acts 2:42-47** for this article? Well simply because the Holy Spirit brought me here (#1), also we're currently being called to it (#2: I'll explain, hold on), and (#3) our circumstances and what's happening in the world currently. Three simple, yet not simple reasons.

Let's start with the Holy Spirit, because He is Holy, Worthy and Sufficient. This takes place in the Bible and historically shortly after Pentecost (you know our current liturgical season). The apostles' are preaching, teaching, praying, and baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son that is Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who baptizes in fire. Peter has been standing in the midst of the temple preaching Jesus as the Messiah, preaching repentance, declaring Jesus is Christ is how freedom is gained. It's good to note that in these first few days of what we now call *"The Church"* the Holy Spirit descended and changed thousands of people's hearts, minds, and beliefs. Basically the Holy Spirit and the Apostles' "Yes" created a mega church or two. Doesn't seem like a lot, but remember Jesus can do a lot with a little. A willing heart can plant thousands of seeds if allowing the Holy Spirit to work through it. Every chance I get my willing heart says "Here I am, Yahweh, send me."

Addressing point number two, I'd like to take a moment to just say that if you asked me even three years ago what kind of a church that each member sells everything and all moves in together, sharing everything they have together, I would've told you "Don't drink the Kool-Aid it's a cult" however, that was the early church and yet I bet the Jewish believers said and felt the same way I used to. The more I study the Word of God and realize just how communal our God is, the more I realize I have believed the father of lies over so many things throughout my life. We are called to care for one another, to pray over each other, to care for the sick, the needy, the widow, and the orphan. That's what we're literally called to do as believers of Christ. So why would that differ now? Because today is a different society? That sounds awfully worldly when it comes to a reason. I truly think we've gotten away from the intention. We're meant to walk together, with God, with Jesus, learning from the Holy Spirit. It's in the Bible old & new testament.

For our third point, and please don't take this as fear mongering, because that is NOT what the Holy Spirit has placed in my Spirit. However, you cannot deny that within this year alone the signs

are signing (as Gen Z says). There have been massive and devastating earthquakes in various places, nations are rising against nations all around the world, we've had major inclement weather systems all over the world that have caused flooding, damage to houses, towns, and infrastructure. Jesus told us in His own words that this would be the beginning of birth pains. To not fear it, for it must take place. Even more so, followers of Christ around the world are being persecuted, some are being attacked, some are being arrested, even more are being martyred or killed. All because of what and who they believe in. We see false religions rising and being accepted in the name of tolerance and inclusion. All this is in the Bible. Jesus said "they will hate you because they first hated me" he also said that "in the end even the elect will turn from me" meaning even followers can and will fall into deception.

So what does this mean? Do we get scared? No, we prepare, we repent, we get in His word, and we stay obedient. If that means we fast and pray, we fast and pray, if it means we share our faith with the random girl in the checkout lane at the grocery store, we do it. If it means we step into the true calling on our lives based on our spiritual gifts? We do it. We do it with joy, love, trust, and anticipation that all this is leading to the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Come Jesus, come, we need you right now. Amen and AMEN. ***~ Jaime Doganes***

CALL COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report ~ **Call Committee**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

WORSHIP AND MUSIC UPDATE

Hello everyone. This is Pam Garcia, member of the committee, with an update you will see in the next few weeks. As a committee, we discussed making Holy Communion more meaningful for members. We are constantly looking for ways to bring us closer together as a family.

We have decided to take **communion to the Main Altar**. The small altar will remain where is for Pastoral use during the services. Communion elements will be placed on the main altar with the words of Institution occurring at that location. Members will be directed to come up to the main altar by walking by the small altar on either side. You can kneel at the main altar or stand if you are more comfortable with that stance. Communion will be given to each person around the altar railing and then **you will be dismissed** to return to your seats. **Once all are communed the Leader with give the post communion blessing.**

Finally, IF you need assistance climbing the steps, please ask an usher to assist you. Also, if you cannot physically get to the main altar, let an usher know and communion will be brought to you at your seat.

This sacrament is meant to bring us closer to our God. The committee cannot think of any better way to do that then taking Christ's Body and Blood at the altar.

We always look forward to your comments. Please share them regarding this change or around anything in the church service. We are here to serve you and our God.

Blessings, Pam Garcia ~ **Worship & Music Committee**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This month's "Want Ads" please pray and consider if the Holy Spirit is calling you to any of these committees.

WANTED- ST. LUKE'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE-

HOURS: AS NEEDED

PURPOSE: CONSISTS OF SIX. MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CONCETU VOTING MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION TWO OF WHOM, IF POSSIBLE, SHA;; BE OUTGOING MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, SHALL BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RE-ELECTION *(.page 18 of the constitution)*

REQUIREMENTS:

- **ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO TAKE ON POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AS COMMITTEE CHAIRS OR EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBER.**

TENU RE TIME: ONE YEAR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: ANY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION.

WANTED -AUDIT COMMITTEE

AN AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THREE VOTING MEMBERS SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL*(page 18 of the constitution)*

TENURE: 3 YEARS WITH ONE MEMBER ELECTED EACH YEAR. MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION.

WANTED -MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

THE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE ROSTERED MINISTER. (*page 18 of the constitution*)

TENURE: TWO YEARS WITH THREE MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED EACH SUCCESSIVE YEAR.

CALL COMMITTEE AS NEEDED

WHEN A PASTORAL VACANCY OCCURES, A CALL COMMITTEE OF SIX VOTING MEMBERS SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE CONGREGATION. *(page 19 of the constitution)*

TENURE: TERM OF OFFICE WILL TERMINATE UPON INSTALLATIONOF THE NEWLY CALLED PASTOR.

If you are interested, reach out to any Council member. No experience required.

Thank you. ~ ***Pam Garcia for the Nominating committee***

MISSIONS

Thank you so much for your generous donations to support the **Back-to-School Backpack Event** through Lutheran Social Services. This year has again been successful. Your kindness and generosity will help provide local children with the school supplies they need to start the

new school year with confidence and excitement.

We are truly grateful for your support and for the difference you are making in the lives of children and families in our community. Also, thank you to all those who helped put together and delivered the backpacks to LSS and thank you Gretchen and Berit for making sure it was run so smoothly.

Thank you again St Luke for helping make this event a success!…Jocelyn Carlson & the Missions & Outreach crew

Fellowship Committee

What's Going On at St. Luke's!

Walking with a Purpose group (hikes on 2nd Saturday of the month). In August we hit the trail at **Gum Grove Park** (Hellman Ranch Trailhead) in Seal Beach**.** Who knew that all the times we've driven by Seal Beach Blvd., we were passing this nice trail with historical markers telling about the Native Americans who lived there. So interesting. Afterwards many of us joined together to eat at Yucatan Grill restaurant. Thanks to Jaime for finding new trails for us to try. On September 12, the group will beat the heat walking Torrance Beach to Flat Rock. Please come and join us. It'll be fun!

Backpacks for Lutheran Social Services. Many of us gathered on Saturday August 15 to fill 48 backpacks for LSS for needy elementary and junior high/high school students in Long Beach. Boy did those backpacks weigh a lot with all the paper, pencils & pencil boxes, crayons, scissors, notebooks, glue sticks, composition books, and more! Thanks to everyone who contributed supplies and to all those who packed the bags. Technically a Missions project, we had a lot of fellowship that day including snacks.

Concert in the Park. Some of our St. Luke's family joined Sharon and Bob Erickson in Irvine for a great and free concert by the Pacific Symphony. There were many interactive and hands-on activities for the kids beforehand

including a drum circle. If you missed this one, they should be back next summer.

As always everyone at St. Luke's church and preschool are invited to all of our events. We also continue to have Fellowship and snacks between services which is another way to mingle.

Berit Bode & Erin McCuan
Fellowship Committee

Bill Bode's Photo Workshop. We had the first session on Thursday August 20 and had a good turnout. Everyone enjoyed learning about the beginnings of photography and the "art of seeing". It's not too late to join in. There will be 3 more sessions: August 27, September 2, and September 10, and a photo outing on Saturday, August 29 to practice taking photos with our cameras and cell phones. All levels are welcome. Contact Bill for additional details.

Coming up: **Erin McCuan's Sourdough Bread Making Class** will be Saturday, October 3. Those of us that took her class last year learned so much and we love making sourdough bread now. Join in the fun! Contact Erin for more information.

The Fellowship Committee is busy planning Fall and Spring Activities and Events. Look for more information soon regarding what's in the works and please let us know if you have ideas for fellowship events.

ST. LUKE'S CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
LONG BEACH, CA

INSIDE

Dates to Remember
Mark your calendars! We are an event filled school & wouldn't want you to miss out!

Welcome Back 2 School
Meet the Teacher, Parent Handbook, Extra Curricular, Special Events & MUCH MORE!

Boosters
Get Involved…we just wouldn't be the same without our Parent Boosters!

Cookie Sales Begin September 21st !

Looking Ahead…

10/8 Cookie Sales DUE

10/16 Outdoor Movie Night & Campout

10/23 Glory Days Spirit Night

10/30 Harvest Festival 3PM – 5PM

SLCP NEWS

September 2026

The latest news and announcements…

INFORMED & ENGAGED

Welcome Preschool Families!

Let's Stay Connected!

We are thrilled to welcome you and your little one to a brand-new preschool year! This is such a special time, and we can't wait to share in all the learning, laughter, and fun ahead.

To make sure no one misses out on important updates or exciting events, we've created lots of ways for families to stay in the loop. Teachers will share their **Phone Conference Hour** and favorite way to communicate during **Back-2-School Night**—but that's just the beginning!

Here are all the ways you can stay connected this year:

✨ **School Website** – SLCP90808.org is your go-to spot for school-wide news and resources.

✨ **Class Dojo App** – Quick updates, announcements, and a peek into classroom moments!

✨ **Event Calendar** – Keep an eye out so you can join the fun for special days and celebrations.

✨ **Courier (Monthly Newsletter)** – A cheerful monthly roundup of what's happening at school.

✨ **Room Parent & Office Emails** – Extra reminders and updates to keep everyone in sync.

We encourage you to check in often and use these tools so you don't miss a single smile, project, or celebration. Staying connected helps make preschool a joyful journey for your child—and for you too! 💛

Here's to a year filled with growth, giggles, and great memories—together!

Dates to Remember:

Mon. Sept. 7th	**Labor Day / No School**
Fri. Sept. 18th	**Booster Meeting 6:30PM**
Mon. Sept. 21st	**Cookie Sales begin**
Tue. Sept. 22nd	**Chapel & Offering begin**
Wed. Sept. 23rd	**Fall Picture Day**

SLCP NEWS

Welcome to St. Luke's Back-2-School Wed. 9/9/26 @ 5:30 PM

I know for many of you, this is your child's first experience away from home and in an unfamiliar setting it may be hard to find your way around. All families should mark their calendars for St. Luke's Back-2-School. There will be tons of information at your fingertips so come check us out & get **ENGAGED!!!**

Parent Participation Points

St. Luke's Christian Preschool is so much more than a daycare. Our students are learning through our example that they are part of a greater educational, religious, and social community. Each year, we demonstrate our commitment to this idea through our participation with the school.

We require our families to participate in 25 hours = $20 per hour of participation. SLCP has dozens of activities from which you can choose to serve (Preschool Sunday's, Maintenance projects, Mission drives, Special Events, etc.). Kids love seeing and knowing that their parents and families are doing something special at school. We thank you for honoring this commitment and for making St. Luke's community special.

RECORDING YOUR PARTICIPATION:

Record your participation right away in 2 ways:

#1 Family Participation card (located at main entrance) noting hours or money spent.

#2 Google Form answer a few simple questions and record.

https://forms.gle/7t1Z4X6B5drq9QCM6

We will tabulate hours based on what you record every three months.

Tips for completing service hours without stress:

- Start early! Mark down dates and commitments on your family calendar months before they start. Mark out the entire year.
- Plan to participate in several things throughout the year so that hours can accumulate steadily.
- Keep track of your own hours and submit them immediately.

Booster News

Rising Stars Booster Club is a group of volunteers, usually parents, who join together once a month to plan family or specific school activities, fundraise and to provide support. The support provided includes recruiting volunteers, participants, raising money as well as building a strong community.

It takes a village!

How do I join?

-Sign up to be a Room Parent
-Come to our meetings @ 6:30 pm

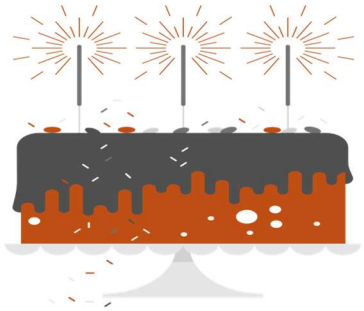
- 9/18
- 10/15
- 2nd Friday of every month thereafter

Come & join us for our annual Family Campout!

When: October 16, 2026
Where: SLCP Lawn
Why???: A wonderful way to introduce your child to the excitement of camping in a safe environment surrounded by others who understand EXACTLY what you're going through! 😉

... AND

Movie Night



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

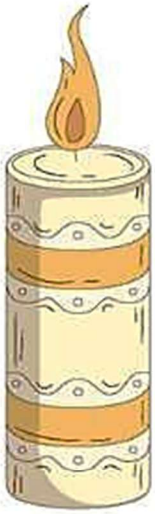
Sept 11	Candice Pearson
Sept 22	Kay Follett
Sept 23	Gerardo Garcia

Sept 18	Jim & Susan Lande
Sept 21	Mark & Maria Hartley
Sept 24	Bryan & Luaine Koenen
Sept 29	Daniel & Erin McCuan

Upcoming Events

Sept 2	Photo Workshop Class @6:30pm in Sanctuary
Sept 3	Neighborhood Watch @7pm
Sept 7	Labor Day
Sept 8	Worship & Music Committee Mtg. @7pm – Church meeting room
Sept 9	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT @6pm with church sponsored BBQ
Sept 10	Photo Workshop Class @6:30pm in Sanctuary
Sept 12	Walking with Purpose ~ Torrance Beach to Flat Rock Point @8:30am eating @ King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant after!!
Sept 15	First Preschool Board meeting of the school year in church meeting room @6:30PM
Sept 20	Church Council Meeting after second service ~ church meeting room

BIBLE
Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. He was swallowed by a big fish
2. What David used to defeat Goliath
3. Noah's vessel
4. Book that tells the creation story
5. Jesus turned water into _____
6. The first woman in the Bible
7. Jesus raised this man from the dead
8. Number of days Jesus fasted in the wilderness
9. Jacob's twin brother

DOWN

1. Abraham's wife
2. What the wise men followed to find Jesus
3. Where Jesus was born
4. City where Paul saw a blinding light
5. Song of _____ (joyful praise
6. He killed his brother out of jealousy
7. Angel who visited Mary
8. Where the Last Supper took place
9. Moses' brother
10. Where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount

www.marysprintables.com

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

SLLC90808@gmail.com
SLCP90808@gmail.com

Church Office : (562) 429-5967
Preschool : (562) 420-7308

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
In-Person & Online Services
9AM & 11AM

ONLINE STREAMING LINK
https://www.youtube.com/@stlukeslongbeach

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

& Christian Preschool

5633 E. Wardlow Road
Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 429-5967 (church)
(562) 420-7308 (preschool)

Change Service Requested