The Courier

Volume 93 ~ Number 10 ~ November 2026

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 NIV

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.

"Rejoice always," let's start there. Every time I dig into God's word something new jumps out at me. As we enter the season of ***gratitude*** the first part of this seems easy. However, if you look at anything other than Jesus it can turn into the hardest thing you've ever done, quickly. How do you rejoice always if you're walking through grief? If you're suffering financial instability? If you're circumstances are giving you were automatically renewed for the **"trials and tribulations package of 2026"**? In Acts the Apostles are arrested for giving the gospel of Jesus and they are beaten for it. When they are released they leave rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering for Jesus. Can you imagine having boundless joy after having been flogged because of your faith?

"pray continually," seems easy enough and yet other than allowing our Bibles to collect dust on tables and shelves without opening them to have a relationship with Jesus, the second most ignored act of faith is prayer life. Oh we pray hard when we are told bad news, or given a hard diagnosis, or have lost someone. When there is a ***need*** we do not lack a prayer life. This season calls us to pray in ***gratitude*** instead, and sometimes being spiritually mature is thanking Him for His **"NO"**. Thank you Jesus that the job fell through, your will be done. Thank you Jesus that the relationship ended you saw what I couldn't. Thank you Father for injuring me and forcing me into a quiet space where I could only rely on You and Your word.

"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This line ties the leading two altogether and tells us exactly how to apply both the **"Rejoice always,"** and the **"pray continually,"** We are called to **"give thanks in all circumstances;"** meaning no matter what is going on, no matter how we feel, no matter what we're walking through we are called to thank Him. Not just to thank Him in the blessing, or the good times, but to thank Him in the hard, the seeming impossible, and the hurting. Even after the beating we are called to praise and give thanks through prayer. Because it's **"God's will for you in Christ Jesus."** Which is the closest to a parent telling a child **"because I know what's best for you"** I think I've ever heard.

"Do not quench the Spirit." This means we are spiritual beings and the only way to feed instead of quench the Holy Spirit within all of us is to ***abide*** with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. That's reading His word, praying about everything, and keeping our eyes on Him even when walking across troubled waters. The only way to the Father is through Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is the mediator and teacher that Jesus gave us before He ascended next to the Father in heaven. All that is to say if you're sad, pray, read the word, ask to know God's will and His character. If you're sick, pray, read the word, ask to have the church lay hands on you. If you're walking through a season of wilderness, pray, read the word, ask God to reveal not only Himself but yourself and be thankful that we have a God who loves us so much He's willing to discipline, correct, allow us to fail, and heal, uplift, and bless. Glory be to God! AMEN. **~** ***Jaime Doganes***

CALL COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report ~ **Call Committee**

CHURCH COUNCIL

BAKE SALE

We are looking for Bakers! On November 15 (Preschool Sunday- one service at 10 am), we will be conducting a bake sale in the front of church. We need contributions from you to make this fundraiser a success. Please tag your baked offerings with a price tag and bring them to church no later than first thing that Sunday morning. All proceeds will go to our Property needs here at church.
If you are NOT a baker, know that these items may be purchased, which will also help us.
Thank you in advance for your help.

CRAFT SALE

During Advent, we will conduct a craft sale each Sunday. If you would like to provide any craft items, please tag them with your asking price and bring them to church. This sale will run during the first 4 Sundays in December. All monies will be part 2 of our Fundraising efforts to support Property repairs here at church. Your contributions by donation and/or purchase are greatly appreciated. These items will make great Christmas gifts.
Thank you in advance for your help.

Pam Garcia for Council

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Happy Fall Blessings, family,

As we fall into the advent season and Thanksgiving, we're reminded of the many blessings that we've been given both within our social and family circles and with our church family.

We're excited to be looking for a potential candidate for our organist/keyboard position.

Here are upcoming dates to keep in mind. There are always reminder emails being sent out, so keep an eye open for those emails from the 'bestest' church admin, Jaime!

November 15th – Preschool Sunday. One service at 10 a.m. Please join us in supporting the youngsters in our flock and their families.

November 25th is our Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00pm. We are excited to have Pastor Witte

with us for this service. Please bring your family and friends for blessings of the season.

December 5th – Saturday at 9:00am - Please grab a work glove and help us to beautify our property. We will also be decorating the sanctuary. Again, this is a great way to engage with our preschool families.

December 12th and 13th - Prince of Peace Pageant- Starts at 7:00pm both nights. Always a fun time. Great opportunity to extend an invite to family and friends or people who live locally and don't necessarily attend this event. They are always looking for actors and others to help with the POPP.
Musical ensembles schedule:
Saturday, December 12th – Praise Band let by Rich Faugno.
Sunday December 13th. Jolly, Jingle, Jazz Jubilee for Jesus. Rich Faugno, our PB leader, also plays with this ensemble for this special performance. They are pretty cool!

December 24th- Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm. This is the time when we welcome our sweet baby boy into the world. Please invite family and friends to join us in this blessed celebration.

December 27th – One service at 10:00 a.m.

There you have it, lovelies! Keep the faith and know that GOD LOVES YOU!

Cia ~ **Worship & Music Committee**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The end of the year is coming sooner rather than later, all positions within the council that are needed have been in the Courier as "Want Ads". Please pray and commune with God about what he's calling you into. In order to maintain our 501c3 we need a President, Secretary, and Treasurer and all three of those positions are up to be filled. We cannot emphasize enough how much we need you to take your faith and make it a verb and step into action.

Thank you. ~ ***the Nominating committee***

MISSIONS

There are **100+ stockings** to fill for LSS this year. The stockings are bigger which will be a lot easier to fill. The stockings will be set out for pick up **early November.**
Families/Individuals can take as many to fill as long as they are all returned to church by a specific date to be delivered to LSS along with **new, unwrapped toys/gift.**

November 7th from **9am to Noon** is the next eWaste Drive see emails for the flyer with what you can and cannot bring. Thank you!! This is a way to raise money for our church!

Jocelyn Carlson & the Missions & Outreach crew

Fellowship Committee

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

Walking with a Purpose met and did the loop at Willow Springs Park. Just under 2 miles and so much to see. There's a farm tucked in between oil rigs, and tons of native plants that are protected in the area. Not to mention the two cemeteries! We'll be meeting November 14th at

Deforest Park Loop in North Long Beach at 9:00am.

Erin McCuan's Sourdough Bread Making Class with Sous Chef Bob Erickson went off wonderfully and a lot of delicious sourdough was to be had. Now those, now two, classes are on the hook for the upcoming Bake Sale. Patisserie Le St. Luke?

Beach Bonfire on Friday November 6 at Huntington State Beach. There is a $15 parking entrance fee and it's from 5:00 until they kick us out or we get too cold! BYO drinks, hot dogs will be provided!!

Berit Bode & Erin McCuan Fellowship Committee

ST. LUKE'S CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL LONG BEACH, CA

RISING STAR BOOSTERS

November Booster Meeting: 11/13/26 @ 6:30 PM

Cookie Sales

THANK YOU PARTICIPANTS!
You helped raise over $4000 for our school!!!

NOVEMBER SLCP SPIRIT NIGHT:

Lucille's SMOKEHOUSE BAR·B·QUE

Keep an eye out for date & time!

see what's new!

SLCP NEWS

November 2026

The latest news and announcements...

Mark your Calendars:

Friday, November 6th

Family Beach Bonfire

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

'Tis the season for gathering around Bonfires with good friends & family...
Huntington State Beach (near Brookhurst)
Get there when you can; Stay as long as you like!
$15 Parking (see public library for loaner passes)
BYO Refreshments--HOT DOGS PROVIDED
Fire-pit reserver Bob Erikson (714) 323-2918

Sunday, November 15th

Preschool Sunday

10 AM Service

During this special service, parents will have the opportunity to experience firsthand what their children are learning in Chapel—the spiritual foundation of our preschool program. Your participation is essential as we partner together in nurturing your child's faith and growth. We look forward to your attendance and shared commitment to our students' spiritual development.

Campus Clean Up & Deck The Halls!

PLEASE join us Saturday, December 5th at 9 AM as we get our Campus ready & beautified for the HoLiDaYs!!!

16ft Tree * window washers * program pre-set * Garland * Lights

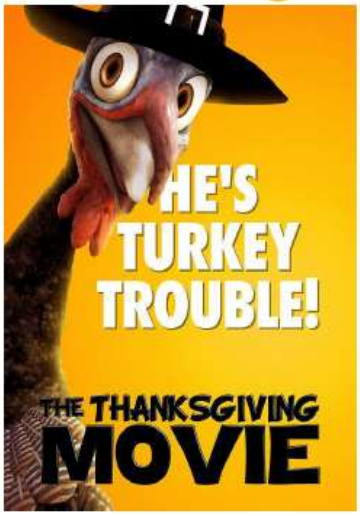
Outdoor Movie Night

FRI, NOVEMBER 20TH 6PM

Movie Nights on the Blow-up screen coupled with St. Luke's concession stand makes for a FUN family night. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs, blankets, coolers & friends!

[*Next:* **December 18th/ Church**]
Dec: **The STAR** ☆ & Pasta Night
(Indoor showing)

Featuring:



A Thanksgiving Celebration

12 Noon	Family picnic set-up & Welcome
12:15 PM	Classroom Song Performance (Youngest to Oldest)
12:30 PM	Prayer & Feast
2:00 PM	School Closed

You are invited…Thanksgiving Feast, **Friday, November 20th @ Noon**

Please R.S.V.P. your attendance NO LATER than November 13th located in Sign In/Out area. Enjoy a song performance & delicious meal prepared and cooked by your children! Let us break bread and give Thanks for **GOD IS GOOD!**

School Closed Nov. 26 & 27

Upcoming… Dates to Remember :

- 12/5 Campus Clean up
- 12/11 Christmas Program @ 5PM
- 12/12 & 13 Portraits of the Prince of Peace
- 12/18 Holiday Movie
- 12/24 thru 1/1/27 School Closed / Christmas break & New Year

…Looking Ahead

Parent Participation Points

Don't forget to record your participation!!!

- Family Participation card (located at main entrance) noting hours or money spent. **OR**
- Google Form (answer a few simple questions and record.)

https://forms.gle/7t1Z4X6B5drq9QCM6

COLDER WEATHER APPROACHING

Please be sure to label ALL outer wear. Our students tend to leave their belongings anywhere. We will do our best to return missing items if we know who they belong to.

School Closed
11/11/26

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Nov 06	Tracy Navetta
Nov 12	Luaine Koenen
Nov 19	Sharon Erickson
Nov 23	Cheryl Coleman

None this month, maybe in December….

Upcoming Events

Nov 01	Daylight Savings Time, Fall Back
Nov 01	All Saints Sunday
Nov 05	Neighborhood Watch @7pm
Nov 06	Beach Bonfire at Huntington State Beach @5:30 (?)
Nov 07	eWaste Event in our Parking Lot @9am – Noon.
Nov 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting @7pm
Nov 11	Veteran's Day, thank you to all who have served.
Nov 13	Booster's Monthly Meeting @6:30pm
Nov 14	Walking with Purpose ~ DeForest Park Loop @ 9am
Nov 15	Preschool Sunday single service @10am
Nov 20	Thanksgiving Feast with our School! @ 11am
Nov 20	Second Movie Night @6:30pm
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Eve Service with Pastor Witte @7pm
Nov 26	Happy Thanksgiving!!
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving Break, school closed.
Nov 26	Courier Published

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

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

& Christian Preschool

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Change Service Requested