



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

September 2026

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

September Highlights

Saturdays of Sisterhood

Saturday, Sept. 5th
10am in Luther Hall

Choir Practice Resumes

Thursday, Sept. 10th
7pm



God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Everyone is welcome to GWOH as we come together for service projects, potluck, and fellowship.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to show God's Love in action and have a good time!

(See insert for more information)

Mission, Vision & Values Check In

Sunday, Sept. 20th

Community Time, after worship
in Luther Hall

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:21

Have you ever used the What-How-Why method to understand or achieve something? It can be a helpful tool for breaking an ambiguous task or scenario into manageable parts. You start with **What**, determining what it is that you're trying to accomplish. That's key, of course. The second component is **How** you are going to accomplish your **What**. Is there a series of steps you'll take? Get those ducks in a row. Thirdly—but most importantly—is the **Why**. You can have a good idea, and you can know what it takes to get from point A to point B, but if none of this has any meaning, it will be difficult to motivate yourself when the going gets tough.

In a community of faith, we start with the **Why**. We know that we're an ELCA Congregation in San Marcos, CA. We know that we meet for worship on Sundays at 10am. We know that we learn and grow in our faith, that we celebrate holidays and milestones in our lives, and that we commit our time and energy to serving our neighbors. These are all great things! But why do we do these things? What is it that we all share that draws us to do these things together?

Well, it's our shared membership in the family of God, first and foremost. But when we want to get specific, we're talking about our core values. What do we value here at SMLC? What are the building blocks of our community? That's what the Mission, Vision, and Values task force has been hard at work on.

Combing through your contributions from our Hopes + History session in July, it was inspiring and gratifying to see so many common themes crop up among all of your varied responses. The task force has discerned five core values that we see lived out in this community. These values are guided by scripture, our tradition, and the actions we take together as a congregation. No spoilers here in the newsletter—you'll need to join in the fun later this month!

Sunday, September 20th is your next opportunity to participate in the process. During Community Time, we'll set up in Luther Hall for a Values Check-in. The five values will be displayed, alongside their scriptural inspiration and a two-sentence description. You won't be getting out your red pen to make edits, but you'll be employing a green, yellow, or red sticker.

A green sticker means "Hallelujah! I agree that this is a value we share."

A yellow sticker means "Hmm, I'm not sure about this."

A red sticker means "Huh? This doesn't sound like SMLC at all."

If you use your yellow or red stickers, we'd be glad to have you submit some written feedback during the session, explaining what you think is amiss. We'll take all of that under consideration as we move forward.

To be clear, we think that these values accurately represent the why of living out our faith in this congregation. We think you'll see yourselves reflected in them, and that you'll be proud and delighted to be part of a community that is shaped by them. There are certainly more than five things that we value! We had a lively discussion as we narrowed it down to these five. You may find that any value you think is "missing" is actually a component of one of the five. We contain multitudes!

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 nor 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

Ed Mossuto

Kelly Van Jen, Vice Pres.

Devin Hogan

Anne Voth, Secretary

Donna Johnson

Beda Farell, Treasurer

Sharon Phelps

Brother Jack Anderson

Esther Daniels

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, Sue Check, Crystal, Eunice Choi, Celia Genishi, Wanda Giuliano and daughter Tammy, Jolene Hanson, the Holtz family, Pete Johnson, Gary Kloehn, Karin Kloehn, Larry, Deborah McGregor, Alvar Roy, Jean Russell, David Russell, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele, Stephanie, Marilyn Schwarz, 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, September 14th 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****September 5th****10am in Luther Hall**

Saturdays of Sisterhood is a bible study designed by women, for women, about women. It includes fellowship, bible reading, sharing of ideas, prayer, and fun.

No need to RSVP a spot, all women are welcome!

Questions? Contact Karin Kupka

Financial Update

End of July 2026 - 58.3% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$308,160	\$161,687	52.47%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$322,368	\$180,738	56.07%

Thank you for your generous gifts which support the mission and ministry of San Marcos Lutheran Church! Mid-year giving statements have all been mailed out for those that made an initial pledge at the beginning of the year.

Social Action



ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

In September, we'd like to request donations of items for Mexican dinners. Especially welcomed would be tortillas, dried beans, rice, salsa, enchilada sauce, canned jalapenos...or anything else along those lines.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support this ministry.

Council Update

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

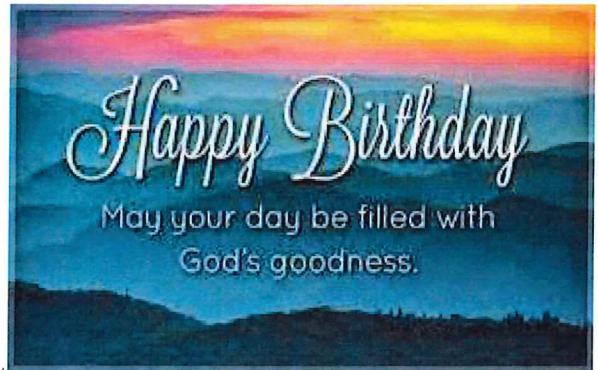
The Council met on August 19th for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports for June and July. The council had 5 items of business that were discussed. First, the Council discussed the recommendation and motion from the Endowment Committee to transfer funds from the Endowment to the general operating budget. The Council recommended the congregation approve the motion. The Council also approved a motion to transfer \$25,000 from the Endowment to the general operating budget contingent upon approval of the motion at the Special Congregational Meeting.

Next, the Council amended the Major Funding task force description to allow non-members with specialized expert knowledge relevant to the projects being considered to be recruited and serve on the task force. The Council appointed persons to the Budget committee.

And lastly, the Council appointed Donna Johnson and Ed Mossuto as Council representatives and members of the Nominating Committee. An additional 3 members of the congregation are still needed for this important committee. We have several elected positions that are open for nominations this year that the Nominating Committee must identify persons to serve. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or even on what the committee does, please contact me or Pastor Casey.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president for 2026 and for your continued support of SMLC, our Council, Pastor Casey, and the staff.

Daniel Norris, President



Sept 6 15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezek 33:7-11
 Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14
 Gospel: Matt 18:15-20

Sept 13 16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Gen 50:15-21
 Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12
 Gospel: Matt 18:21-35

Sept 20 17th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11
 Second Reading: Phil 1:21-30
 Gospel: Matt 20:1-16

Sept 27 18th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32
 Second Reading: Phil 2:1-13
 Gospel: Matt 21:23-32

Sept 1 Shelby Armstrong

Sept 3 Ryan Proskow

Sept 3 Anne Voth

Sept 4 Marilyn Monell

Sept 4 Gregory Szepe

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 17 Liam Logsdon

Sept 19 Shawn Logsdon

Sept 19 Karla Strazicich- Cain

Sept 22 Rick Shoup

Sept 25 Donna Johnson

**The next Newsletter article deadline
 is Sept. 15th**

2026

CALENDAR YEAR

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	02 12pm- AA- LH	03	04 12pm- AA- LH	05 10am- Sat of Sisterhood 6-9pm AA- LH
06 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	07 12pm- AA- LH	08 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	09 12pm- AA- LH 130pm- SAC mtg- Conf 6-8p- AA Leadership Mtg-LH	10 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	11 745-1015a- St Joes-SA 12pm- AA- LH	12 6-9pm AA- LH
13 10am- GWOH	14 12pm- AA- LH	15 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	16 12pm- AA- LH 6:30pm- Exec. Council 7pm- Council	17 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	18 12pm- AA- LH	19 6-9pm AA- LH
20 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	21 12pm- AA- LH	22 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	23 12pm- AA- LH	24 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	25 12pm- AA- LH	26 6-9pm AA- LH
27 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	28 12pm- AA- LH	29 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	30 12pm- AA- LH	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10



God's Work Our Hands

Please join us for the annual church-wide event, God's Work Our Hands (GWOH), coming up on 09/13/2026. After a short church service at 10:00 AM, we will gather on the church campus to participate in a service project. It is always lots of fun and an exciting opportunity to serve our community. Everybody is welcome so bring your friends! The more hands working together the greater a difference we can make! Afterwards stay and enjoy great fellowship at the POTLUCK luncheon. Bring a dish to share!

Projects list:

- Sewing Eyeglass Cases, to be distributed by a missionary group with reading glasses. We are also collecting used glasses.
- Assembling Sack Lunches, to be distributed by Interfaith to the local community.
- Yard Work for the SMLC Preschool, here at our church.
- Collecting used Towels for bedding and bagging Cat Food, which will be distributed by the Humane Society to homeless pet owners. (Please bring used towels to donate.)
- Sorting already donated athletic clothing for distribution to Disabled Athletes.
- Bagging rice and beans for distribution to immigrants in our community.

Any questions: contact Karla Strazicich (760) 201-5313 or the church office.





CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS September 2026



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

From the desk of Mrs. Leong:

Welcome, September! It's been so fun playing with our familiar crew and faces brand new, not to mention exploring 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!

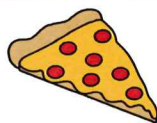
I would also like to introduce to you our Parent Rep for this school year: Kimberly Hansen (Hazel's mommy). She will be attending the Preschool Board meetings with me, helping with multiple school fundraisers and encouraging everyone to get involved! Thank you for your generous donations from our Back-to-School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

Upcoming Important Dates:

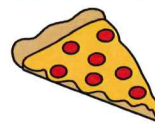
Monday, Sept 7th: School Closed for Labor Day!

Wednesday, Sept 30th: School closed at 12pm for staff meeting~

Thursday, Sept 24th and Friday, Sept 25th: 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!



Pizza
Thursdays
12pm-1pm
\$20



This year, LUNCH BUNCH will be offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays, starting THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd with Pizza Lunch. Pizza and juice boxes will be provided! Sign up and eat, play, and enjoy lunch with friends!

September Dates: 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24

Tips for transitioning from summer to the school year:

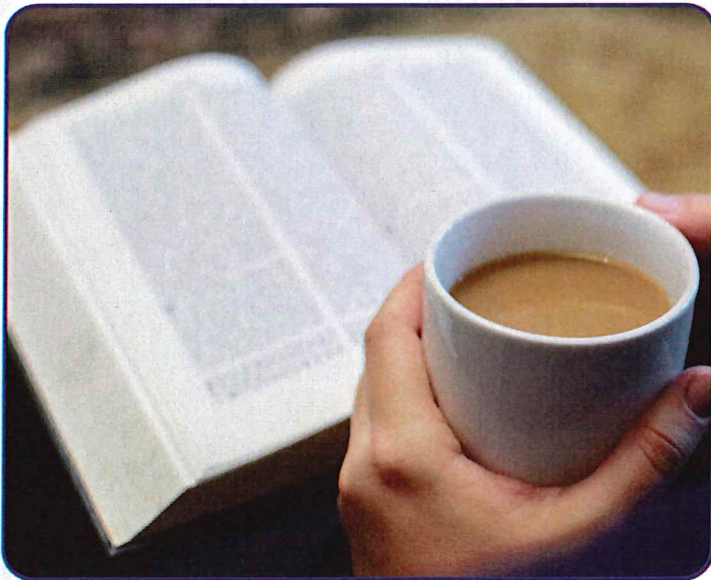
As we move from the lazy days of summer to a more scheduled routine, it's easy to forget that your preschooler might not understand why things have to change. So it's important that you are taking the time to communicate with them what is happening. If you need to get up earlier, then make it a family 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

NEW

HOME-BASED SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

BEGINS IN OCTOBER!



Beginning in October, we invite you to be part of a new small group ministry centered on studying God's Word, growing in faith, and building meaningful relationships with one another.



STUDY
GOD'S WORD



GROW
IN FAITH



BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS

This will be an opportunity to gather in a welcoming, home-based setting, to explore the Bible together, ask questions, share insights, and discover how Scripture speaks to our everyday lives.

WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO BIBLE STUDY OR HAVE BEEN STUDYING SCRIPTURE FOR YEARS,

we encourage you to join a small group to learn, grow, and encourage one another in our faith.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

LORI MCLEASTER

317-649-1461

lsmcleaster@gmail.com

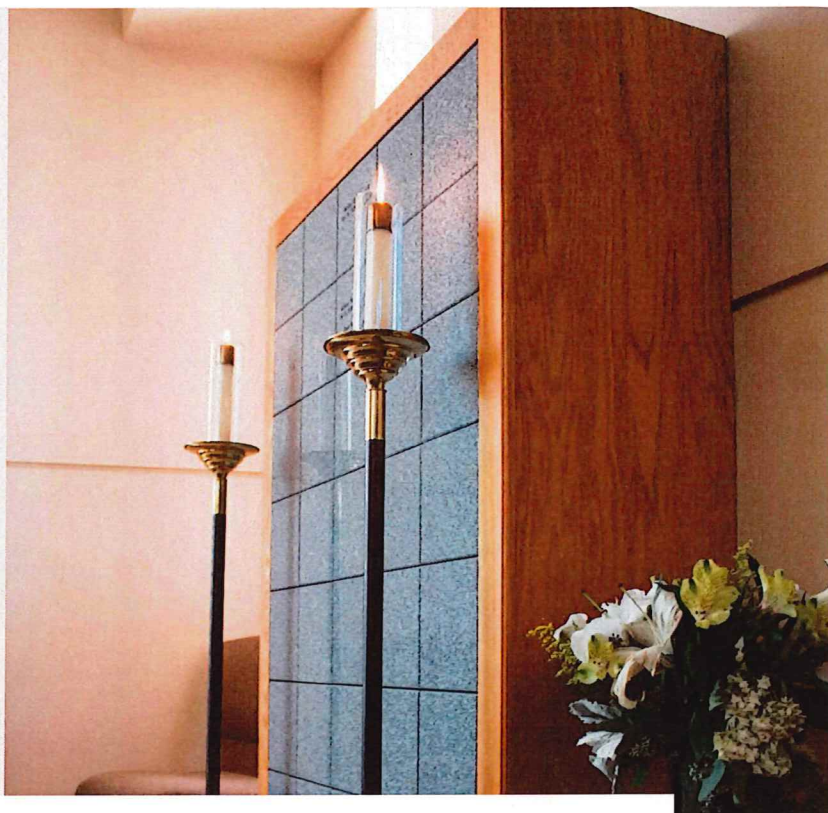
BETH SULLIVAN

847-254-0212

beth@pa3.com

A Sacred Place of Remembrance

Our church columbarium provides a serene and sacred final resting place for you or your loved one, keeping their memory within our church community.



Niche Options



SINGLE NICHE:
\$900



DOUBLE NICHE:
\$1,800

The cost includes the niche, marble inscription, construction, and perpetual care and maintenance.

Included with your Niche



Personalized Marble Inscription



Columbarium Construction



Perpetual Care & Maintenance



Located Within Our Church Sanctuary



SAN MARCOS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

INTERESTED IN RESERVING A NICHE?

Contact the church office to learn more or begin the reservation process.



office@sanmarcoslutheran.org



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www.sanmarcoslutheran.org