THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos Lutheran Church

November 2026

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

Saturdays of Sisterhood
Saturday, Nov. 7th
10am in Luther Hall

Decorate the Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 22nd
after worship





Coming in December:

Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon
Saturday Dec. 5th at 12pm

Palomar Singers during Worship
Sunday, Dec 6th

Palomar Choir Concert
Saturday, Dec. 12th 2pm.

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 13th 11:15am

Advent Reflections
Wednesday, Dec. 23rd 3pm

See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' – Mark 1:2b-3

It might seem a little overeager of me to explain that I am writing about Advent in the November newsletter, as it will be "too late" by the time you read the December newsletter—the first Sunday of Advent is November 29th. Why overeager? Well, because Advent is a season marked by waiting. However! It is also a season of preparation, and so I am inviting you to prepare to prepare. You're welcome.

I don't mean to get out your Christmas shopping list and panic that you are already behind schedule. Rather, I mean, as we will hear from a voice crying out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. What does that look like?

John the Baptizer, regarded as that voice in the wilderness, is calling us to get ready for the arrival of the Christ child, and to repent—to turn around, to change our minds. Preparedness, for Advent, can look like turning from whatever it is that has your attention, and retraining your focus on the coming reign of God. Instead of turning inward on yourself, turn to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

That sounds so nice, doesn't it? And yet, John was...not popular. Change is hard. John is telling us that Jesus is coming, and that everything is going to be different—including us. So we need to get ready. We need to prepare. We need to recalculate our lives, turning intentionally toward God—toward the fullness of life. Rather than devote ourselves to things that we know, deep down, will leave us empty, John's prophecy invites us into truly good news. Salvation is ours, through Jesus Christ. Not through any of the other stuff we're distracted by.

It's early November (presumably) when you are reading this. So the four weeks of Advent have not yet begun. How will you mark them when they arrive? What preparations can you make so that, when Advent begins at the end of this month, you are ready to receive it? Do you want to set up an Advent wreath in your home? Do you want to get some candles out? Do you want to read some scripture? Do you want to write some reflections? Do you want to use a book of devotions? Ponder those ideas in these weeks, so that you can find that wreath in the garage, or those candles in the closet, or ask your pastor for a recommendation on something to read.

Advent is a season of waiting. Not just loitering, but active and expectant anticipation. We wait for the arrival of the Christ child, and we do so already knowing the whole story. These four weeks will invite us to practice patience and delayed gratification. We know that Jesus is on the way, but he is not yet here. And we know that the reign of God is on the way, but it is not yet here. During these four weeks, we wait for the Lord in both of these ways. And we do so through four themes—hope, peace, joy and love.

Each week during worship, as an expression of this quiet preparation, I will lead you through a guided meditation. We'll sing a short and simple song to open and to close. The song will change each week, and the theme of the meditation will, too. We'll follow the path of hope, peace, joy, and love, as we prepare the way of the Lord. This time of quiet reflection will allow you to prepare your heart, your mind, and your spirit to receive good news of great joy.

Peace,
Pastor Casey

San Marcos Lutheran Church
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(760) 727-1509
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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 or 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, Crystal, Celia Genishi, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Larry, Alvar Roy, David Russell, the Schwarz/Leong family, Stephanie, Nick Torres, Kelly Van Jen. Let us pray for our homebound members: Wanda Guiliano, Jim Kent, Janice Phillips, Jean Russell, Carol Schwartz and Bette Soderstrom. We also continue to pray for: Pacifica Synod Bishop David Nagler and ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.



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, November 9th 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

November 7th
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 September 2026 - 75% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
$308,160	$233,303	75.71%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
$322,368	$234,189	72.65%

Thank you for your generous gifts which support the mission and ministry of San Marcos Lutheran Church!

Save the Date:

Women's Holiday Potluck Salad Luncheon

Saturday, Dec 5th. 12pm

Please join us for a Women's Christmas Luncheon held in Luther Hall. Bread and dessert will be provided. Come and enjoy good food, fellowship and singing Christmas Carols.

Feel free to bring a friend.

Questions contact Donna Huber



Social Action

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

As you shop for Thanksgiving Dinner for your family, we ask that you pick up an extra item for our Food Pantry clients. Cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, mashed potatoes, pumpkin or other pie filling, packaged whipped topping would all be welcome. (We have enough green beans and corn.) Thank you for continuing to be a part of this mutual ministry with All Saints Episcopal Church in Vista. Our numbers are up, so multiples of the same item are great. On the 4th Saturday in October we had 41 individuals representing 129 family members.

Council Update

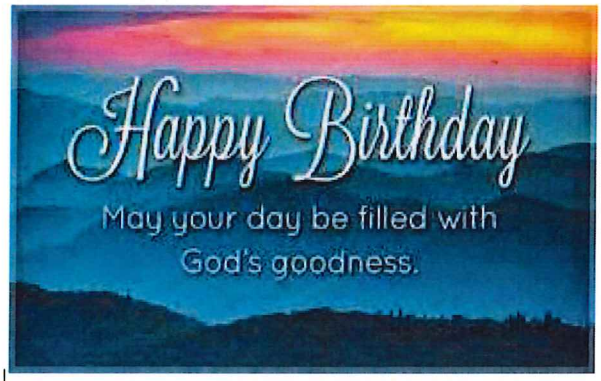
Hello SMLC! Here are the updates for the September Council meeting.

The Council met on October 20th for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports for September. The council had 3 items of business that were discussed. All three of the items were informative and updates on ongoing activities important for the council to know. These included an update from the long term financial task force, an update from the Nominations committee, and the financial situation of the preschool. Regarding the preschool the council provided guidance and information to Pastor Casey to allow her to have productive conversations with Ann Leong regarding the financial situation of the preschool and expectations of the congregation. The Nominations Committee is making good progress and is expected to have a full slate of nominees for the congregation elections in December.

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





Nov 1	**All Saints Day**
First Reading:	Rev 7:9-17
Second Reading:	1 John 3:1-3
Gospel:	Matt 5:1-12
Nov 8	**24th Sunday after Pentecost**
First Reading:	Amos 5:18-24
Second Reading:	1 Thess 4:13-18
Gospel:	Matt 25:1-13
Nov 15	**25th Sunday after Pentecost**
First Reading:	Zeph 1:7, 12-18
Second Reading:	1 Thess 5:1-11
Gospel:	Matt 25:14-30
Nov 22	**Christ the King**
First Reading:	Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24
Second Reading:	Eph 1:15-23
Gospel:	Matt 25:31-46
Nov 29	**1st Sunday of Advent**
First Reading:	Isa 64:1-9
Second Reading:	1 Cor 1:3-9
Gospel:	Mark 13:24-37

Nov 2 Caroline Noesgaard
Nov 8 Ann Leong
Nov 10 Haley Johnson
Nov 10 Christian Noesgaard
Nov 13 Jane Gearhart
Nov 16 Dean McCoy
Nov 17 Lisa O'Carroll
Nov 17 Luke Oliveira
Nov 22 Nicholas Oliveira
Nov 26 Max Chodos
Nov 26 Yvonne McCoy
Nov 28 Diana Coker

The next Newsletter article deadline is Nov. 15th



The holiday season is all about spreading joy, sharing kindness, and making a little magic happen, and that's exactly what we're doing together with Interfaith Community Services!

Ready to Spread Some Holiday Cheer?

Browse the six categories below and bring in as many items as you'd like between **November 22nd and November 29th**. There will be plastic bags for each category. Gift bags and wrapping paper are also welcome!

Infants (0-12 months)

- soft blankets, diapers and wipes, infant bath sets, toys. To help us offer a fun, well-rounded and an equal selection of gifts that babies love, Interfaith will NOT be accepting clothing or shoe donations this year.

Toddlers (1-4 years old)

- Pull-Ups, wipes, age-appropriate toys (blocks, plushies, musical toys, stacking toys, pretend play toys), picture books, bath time hygiene sets,toddler feeding sets (cups, plates, bowls, utensils, and snack containers)

Children (5-10 years old)

- LEGOs, dolls, action figures, puzzles, & other toys, books, graphic novels, & activity books, soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, & sports gear, craft kits & creative activities, kid-friendly personal care sets, backpacks, water bottles, hats, gloves

Teens (13-17 years old)

- Skin Care Products, Personal care kits, Art kits/journals, sketchbooks, pens, Accessories, Young Adult books and graphic novels, Games, card games, puzzles, Sports balls, Earbuds, portable chargers & small tech accessories

Adults

- Cozy throws and blankets, Bath towels, Full-size hygiene items, including: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body wash, Deodorant, Shaving cream, Loofahs, Lotion, Journals, Adult coloring books and coloring supplies, Small appliances, thoughtful gifts such as candles, baking kits, mugs, cozy socks, beanies & other special surprises

$50 Walmart Gift cards

- One of Interfaith's biggest goals this year is to give one to every adult in their program. For a senior living alone, a veteran, a hardworking parent, or someone rebuilding their life, that gift card can help purchase groceries, essentials, household items, or something special they truly need.

Pets

- Dog and Cat Food, Treats and Toys, Chews, balls, scratchers, and enrichment items, Blankets, pet beds and crates, Leashes, collars, grooming tools, and litter, Flea treatments, shampoo, and waste bags, $25 Petco, Chewy, or Walmart gift cards for flexible support

WINTERFAITH WONDERLAND SHOPPING & GIFT-WRAPPING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

What's in store?

- Gift wrapping, sorting, & helping families "shop"
- Santa photo ops (kids & pups welcome!)
- Crafty fun for the little elves!

Where:
Interfaith's Community Hub (Warehouse) – 2215 Auto Park Way, Escondido, CA 92029

When:
Friday, Dec 4 | from 9 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, Dec 5 | from 8 AM – 4:00 PM

Dress Code:
Closed-toe shoes, comfy clothes, and your most ugly holiday sweater!

Volunteer Roles:
Wrap stars, sorting sidekicks, shopping helpers, kid-zone hosts. Families welcome. Elves under 14 must bring a grown-up

To volunteer, contact Maria Espinoza
mespinoza@interfaithservices.org

SMLC Children's Center News

NOVEMBER 2026



Ann Leong, Director • 760-727-0326 • smlcchild@sbcglobal.net

Thanksgiving is a time of reflecting on the many blessings that God has given us throughout the year. As a Preschool, we encourage the children to reflect each day on the many blessings in their lives. In Chapel, we pray for our families, friends, for God's amazing creation and all sorts of things. But it's also important that we teach the children that not everyone is blessed in the same way. During the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods for All Saints Episcopal Church Food Pantry in Vista. We have partnered with this church for many years and I am thankful we can continue to work together. Donations of canned goods will be accepted 11/2-11/20 and it will get picked up here at the church. We have a lot to be thankful for and I am thankful for all of you~!!

Happy Thanksgiving! *~Blessings, Mrs. Leong*

PARTNERING WITH ALL SAINTS' FOOD PANTRY IN VISTA

This amazing Food Pantry has grown to serve more than 200 different families and individuals over the years. The need is great as they get ready for the holidays~ Help us help the food pantry this month with any non-perishable foods, canned fruit and soup. Other needed items include: Peanut butter and jelly, dried pasta, beans and rice. We will have a wagon ready for the children to participate in this wonderful giving. Thanks in advance!

Events and Reminders

11/1 (Sat): Daylight Saving Time Ends...FALL BACK an hour! Change your clocks~

11/2 (M) -11/20 (F): Food collection for All Saints Episcopal Church Food Pantry

11/11 (W): School closed in observance of Veterans Day

11/18 (W) & 11/19 (Th): Thanksgiving Cornucopia Snacks & Pizza Thursday ~

11/23 (M) - 11/27 (F): School Closed for Thanksgiving Break~ See you back here on Monday, November 30th or Tuesday, December 1st!

Coming Up...Pajama Drive: 12/1-12/15~ more info to follow!

Learn Live Share the Love of God

2026 NOVEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR | CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	02 12pm- AA- LH	03 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	04 12pm- AA- LH	05 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	06 12pm- AA- LH	07 10am- Sat of Sisterhood 6-9pm AA- LH
08 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	09 12pm- AA- LH	10 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	11 12pm- AA- LH **Veteran's Day- Office Closed**	12 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	13 745-1015am- St Joe's- SA 12pm- AA- LH	14 6-9pm AA- LH
15 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	16 12pm- AA- LH	17 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	18 12pm- AA- LH	19 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	20 12pm- AA- LH	21 6-9pm AA- LH
22 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	23 12pm- AA- LH	24 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	25 12pm- AA- LH	26 **Thanksgiving Day- Office Closed**	27 12pm- AA- LH **Office Closed**	28 6-9pm AA- LH
29 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	30 12pm- AA- LH	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12