



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

December 2025

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

Important Dates in December:

Saturday of Sisterhood
Saturday, Dec. 6th 10:30am

Palomar Choir Concert
Saturday, Dec. 6th 2pm.

Advent Adventures
Sunday, Dec. 7th 11:15a-12pm

Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon
Saturday Dec. 13th at 12pm

Congregational Meetings
Sunday, Dec. 14th 11:15am

Music Men Chorus Concert
Sunday, Dec. 14th. at 3pm

Advent Reflections
Tuesday, Dec. 23rd 3pm

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, Dec 24th at 7pm
Music starts @ 6:30pm



*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage! — Psalm 27:14

December is a very full month around here! If you joined us for worship on a Sunday near the end of November, you heard a long list of announcements about all of the opportunities for gathering, serving, and celebrating in the next few weeks. I was greeted with that same sense of abundance—and a little bit of overwhelm—as Aimee and I reviewed the contents for this very newsletter. This time of year has us all double-checking our calendars as we hope to squeeze in as much festivity as we can.

It's already Christmas at retail stores and your dentist's office; Thanksgiving weekend inundates us with ads for Black Friday sales and more more more. Your place in the planning of your Christmas festivities will influence how "behind" you already feel you are.

It's my job, as your pastor, to remind you to *slow down*.

The season of Advent shows up in stark contrast to our cultural moment. This may annoy you, as I insist that you light a candle and take a deep breath, when you've got a mile-long to-do list. Martin Luther suggested that everyone should spend thirty minutes each morning in prayer, and that those who are too busy should pray for sixty minutes. This is, of course, to emphasize the necessity of time spent in stillness and in connection with God and one another. When we are whipped into a frenzy, it is very challenging to interrupt ourselves for long enough to notice the presence of God.

This is especially ironic for us, as the arrival of God in our midst—the birth of the Christ child, Jesus of Nazareth—is what this season is about. In the midst of our chaos, our exhaustion, our excitement, our loneliness, our joy, our grief, our real lives, God shows up. Each year, I am deeply relieved when we reach this season, because I know that Jesus is *finally* coming. That, as I look around at the brokenness of our world, God is coming to make us whole again. God is coming to make all things new.

Advent reminds us to get ready. And not as another thing to add to your list! You don't need to change anything about yourself to be ready to receive God's love bursting into the world. The readiness can be a gift you give to yourself, time spent preparing your heart for good news of great joy.

Over the next four weeks, we will anticipate the coming of the Lord. We will sing songs of hopeful expectation, imagining what our weary world might look like once he is here. We will light candles as the days get darker, reminding us of the light he brings. We will pray for peace.

As we worship together on the four Sundays of Advent, I will invite you into some (small, simple) practices of reflection and prayer and connection that will accompany you in this season. The overall theme of Advent is waiting, but in neither a bored way nor an anxious way. We'll focus each week on waiting with **hope, peace, joy, and love**. We'll wonder about what the arrival of the infant Jesus will mean for us as individuals, as a community, and as a whole world.

And on Christmas Eve, we'll sing *Silent Night*. I can hardly wait!

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	Karla Strazicich-Cain
Kelly Van Jen, Vice Pres.	Ed Mossuto
Anne Voth, Secretary	Devin Hogan
Jan Parthemer, Treasurer	Tom Andreas
	Br. Jack Anderson

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, Celia Genishi, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Gary Kloehn, Larry, Deborah McGregor, Melinda Nelson, Leanne Pohrman, Alvar Roy, Jean Russell, Jake & Sarah Simpson, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele, Stephanie, Nick Torres, Kelly Van Jen. Let us pray for our homebound members: Jim Kent, Janice Phillips, Carol Schwartz and Bette Soderstrom.

Our sympathy to the Kent family at the recent passing of Linda Kent. May God comfort all who mourn with the hope of the resurrection.



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, Dec 8th 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

Join us on Dec 6th, 10-1130am

Questions? Email
karinkupka533@hotmail.com or call
760-415-2525.

Google and Yelp Reviews:

We'd love to hear from our SMLC community! Consider leaving us a review on Google and/or Yelp.

We thank you for the support!

Financial Update

End of October 2025- 83.3% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$234,896	72.62%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$323,473	\$259,421	80.20%

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

thank you
♥

Women's Christmas Salad Potluck Luncheon

Saturday, December 13th at 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. Please bring 2 canned goods or pantry staples for the food pantry.

Feel free to bring a friend.

Questions contact Donna Huber 760-521-1917



Social Action



All Saint's Food Pantry:

Our very special thanks to the preschool for their carload of Thanksgiving donations. We had a big jump in the number of clients, so it was great to know we had plenty for everyone who came. For December we have some special Christmas wishes in addition to the usual needs: coffee, ketchup, nuts, spices and herbs, quinoa, peanut butter, tuna, canned peaches, canned mixed fruit. We'd also like to give out \$25 Target Gift cards on December 20th. Thanks for your part in this ongoing ministry.



Advent Adventure

Sunday, December 7th

11:15am- Noon - Luther Hall

Food, crafts, singing, ringing and fun! All ages are welcome! Questions? Contact

Karin Kupka at

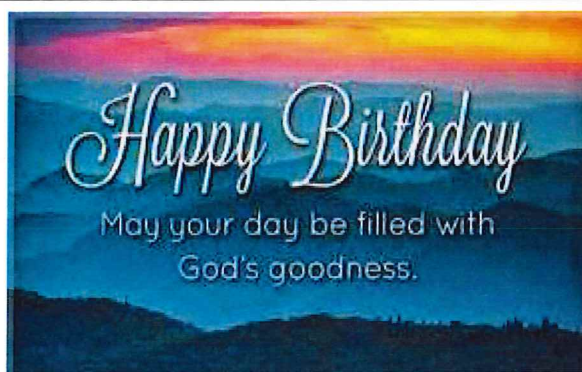
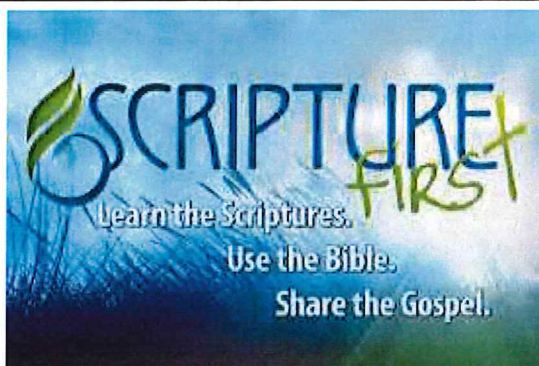
karinkupka533@hotmail.com

Congregational Meeting- Dec. 14th

On December 14, 2025, we will be holding Part 1 of our Annual Congregational Meeting to elect council members and officers for terms beginning in January 2026. We will also hold a Special Congregational Meeting to make minor changes to our Constitution that have been recommended by the Synod. We will also vote on proposed changes to our constitution regarding the Mutual Ministry Committee.

As the changes we will be voting on are relatively minor in nature, such as typographical corrections recommended by the Synod, and a clarification to provision that establishes our Mutual Ministry Committee, we will not be holding a specific time during our post-worship fellowship hour to discuss the changes. However, the recommendations are available for review by any member of the congregation. Please contact Aimee in the church office for copies of the text if you wish to review. The text will also be available on the day of the congregational meeting. The Council recommends approval of these changes.

These are important items for our congregation to consider. Please make every effort to attend. If you have questions, you may contact Dan Norris at council@sanmarcoslutheran.org, or after worship on Sunday.



Nov 30 First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 2:1-5
 Second Reading: Rom 13:11-14
 Gospel: Matt 24:36-44

Dec 7 Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 11:1-10
 Second Reading: Rom 15:4-13
 Gospel: Matt 3:1-12

Dec 14 Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 35:1-10
 Second Reading: James 5:7-10
 Gospel: Matt 11:2-11

Dec 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isa 7:10-16
 Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7
 Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

First Reading: Isa 9:2-7
 Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Dec 25 Christmas Day

First Reading: Isa 62:6-12
 Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 2:[1-7]8-20

Dec 28 First Sunday of Christmas

First Reading: Isa 63:7-9
 Second Reading: Heb 2:10-18
 Gospel: Matt 2:13-23

Dec 1 Kristen Szepe
 Dec 7 Jami Phelps
 Dec 10 Ellen Arney
 Dec 10 William Noesgaard
 Dec 12 Eleanor Adcock
 Dec 13 Hannah Johnson
 Dec 14 Ross Webster
 Dec 15 Christine Buma
 Dec 18 Ashley Balbo
 Dec 18 Brandon Balbo
 Dec 19 Chris Kepler
 Dec 20 Joan Merrihew
 Dec 20 Dan Norris
 Dec 22 Carol Schwartz
 Dec 26 Bailey O'Carroll
 Dec 30 Kinsley Armstrong

**The next Newsletter article
 deadline is December 15th**



THANK YOU for bringing all the wonderful gifts for Interfaith's "Winterfaith" Shopping Mall. What a joy it will be for parents to select gifts for their children and themselves. MANY volunteers will be needed for all kinds of activities on December 12th and 13th: sorting, wrapping, playing with kids at the craft tables, helping guide families to the various "departments" to shop, etc. The best way to volunteer is to go online and sign up. Log on to Interfaith Community Services, Volunteer Opportunities, and look for the Holiday Sponsor a Family logo. You will see time and activity choices for Friday and Saturday (but don't forget about the Ladies Christmas Luncheon here at church Saturday at noon). Parking is limited at the Interfaith warehouse, so carpooling is encouraged. If you'd like to carpool, see someone from the Social Action Committee in the narthex on Sunday, and we'll try to coordinate one or more groups. Some of us plan on signing up for Friday afternoon. The address is **2215 Auto Park Way in Escondido**. You are encouraged to wear Christmas sweaters. Kids welcome, but bring a grown-up for elves under 14.



SMLC Children's Center News

December 2025

Ann Leong, Center Director



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

We are continuing our attitude of gratitude as we enter this Advent season (in the Christian church calendar, the time leading up to Christmas is called Advent, a Latin word meaning "coming"). We want to thank you for your love and support of our school, of the staff, our programs and our outreach ministries to The Food Pantry in Vista, The Cal-SAFE program in Escondido and this year, our very own San Marcos Lutheran Church Homebound members. We recognize you have many choices for your child's education and we feel blessed that you have chosen our little center to help your child grow physically, socially and spiritually. Looking ahead to 2026, we are full of hope!! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year~ Jesus is the reason for the season!

Blessings to you and your family~ *Ann, Marlene, Elle & Roxy*

December Events...Mark your calendars!

12/1-12/17: Annual CAL-SAFE (California School-Age Families Education) Pajama Drive. This holiday season, we will be gifting new infant/toddler/kids pajamas for the Cal-SAFE Escondido families. There are 22 babies this year! Be on the lookout for display of baby gender and sizes~

12/1-12/17: We will be making Christmas cards for our very own San Marcos Lutheran Church homebound members. Each card will be personalized, filled with lots of love & cheer! They will be mailed in time for Christmas. See Mrs. Leong on how you can help!

12/17 (W) & 12/18 (Th): Pajama & Hot Cocoa days ~YES, wear jammies to school!

12/19 (F): Last days of Preschool for 2025. NO LUNCH BUNCH! Pick up is at NOON.

12/22-1/2: Closed for Christmas Break. School will resume on Monday, 1/5/2026!

We are sharing our Preschool Playdough recipe this Christmas season!

2 Cups of Flour

1 Cup of Salt

1 Tablespoon of Cream of Tartar

2 Cups of Water (warm water works best!)

2 Tablespoon of Vegetable Oil

(Any) Liquid Water Color or Food Coloring

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God

HOLIDAY CHORAL CELEBRATION

"We Need A Little Christmas!"...(Barbershop Style)

**Presented by the Music Men Chorus
North County's Premier A Cappella Men's Chorus**



With Special Guests



If you've "Grown a little leaner, grown a little colder, grown a little sadder, grown a little older", come join us for an entertaining concert of joyful Holiday music that is sure to raise your spirits!

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025, 3:00 PM
SAN MARCOS LUTHERAN CHURCH
3419 GRAND AVENUE, SAN MARCOS**

A free-will offering will be accepted (Suggested donation \$10.00)

2025

DECEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01 12pm- AA- LH	02 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	03 12pm- AA- LH 1230- Palomar Rehearsal- SA	04 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	05 12pm- AA- LH	06 10am- Sat of Sister- LH 2pm- Palomar Choir Concert 6-9pm AA- LH
07 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	08 12pm- AA- LH	09 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	10 12pm- AA- LH 130pm- SAC Mtg-Conf 6-8pm- NC Intergroup- LH	11 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	12 12pm- AA- LH	13 12pm- Women's Holiday Luncheon 6-9pm AA- LH
14 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Congregational Mtg 3pm- Music Men Concert	15 12pm- AA- LH	16 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	17 12pm- AA- LH 6-8pm- Council- SA	18 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	19 12pm- AA- LH	20 6-9pm AA- LH
21 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	22 12pm- AA- LH	23 3pm- Advent Reflections- SA 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	24 12pm- AA- LH 7pm- Christmas Eve Srvc.	25 Christmas Day!	26 12pm- AA- LH	27 6-9pm AA- LH
28 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	29 12pm- AA- LH	30 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	31 12pm- AA- LH	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10