



THE GOOD NEWS

San Marcos
Lutheran Church

February 2026

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

Important Dates in February:

Fall Prevention Discussion

Sunday, Feb 1st
after worship in Luther Hall



Saturdays of Sisterhood

Saturday, Feb 7th
at 10am in Luther Hall



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Feb 8th
after worship in Luther Hall



Cookie Decorating Class

Thursday, Feb 12th
10:30am in Luther Hall



Ash Wednesday Service

Wed. Feb 18th
11:30am- Disposition of Ashes
7pm- Worship Service



Women's Retreat

Friday, Feb 27- March 1st
Luther Glen

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. – Matthew 7:7

Have you ever been to confirmation class? If your answer is yes, then you probably know that confirmation is an opportunity for youth and adults to affirm their baptisms and confirm their faith as Lutherans. When we celebrated Jesus' baptism in January, I preached about our tradition of baptizing infants and adults, welcoming people of any age into the family of God.

It is typical for people who are baptized as infants and raised as Lutherans to take the next faithful step of learning more about who God is, who we are, what scripture says, and what our traditions are built on. Confirmation class is often for middle schoolers, who spend a couple of years studying with their pastor, learning all kinds of stuff and asking all kinds of questions and eating all kinds of snacks.

But maybe it has been a while since you were in middle school. Or maybe you were not raised Lutheran or in any kind of tradition that included confirmation. Either way, you have questions. I know you do, because you ask them all the time! And some of you ask me similar questions, and I bet some of you have those same questions but just haven't ever asked. So we're going to dig in.

During the season of Lent, we'll begin a series called Things You Missed in Confirmation Class. During the after-worship Community Time on February 22 and March 15, we'll gather in Luther Hall to address some of the things you are the most curious about. I have some ideas, but I also want to tell you about things you want to know. So there will be a question box available on Sunday mornings between now and then for you to scribble your questions to me. You can also email or text me your questions. They can be about anything.

A classic confirmation curriculum contains sessions about the Old Testament, the New Testament, Jesus, liturgy and worship, other Christian traditions and other religions, Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and discipleship—how we apply our faith in daily life.

Your questions can be general: what do Lutherans believe about prayer? Or they can be specific: what translation of the bible do we use? Maybe there's a character in the Old Testament that you've always wanted to learn more about. Or maybe you don't even know what you don't know, and you want to hear about some of the unsung heroes of our scripture. If you're curious about the new Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, or what a Presiding Bishop even is, ask away.

Submitting your questions in advance will help me group them together into similar sections and prepare thorough answers. I have these two sessions on the calendar, but we'll keep going beyond that based on your questions.

If you are a recent visitor to SMLC, grew up Catholic, have been Lutheran all your life, or anything in between, your questions are welcome. There is absolutely no shame in not knowing something you think you should have learned before. Your curiosity is holy, and it is a gift to me to help you feel more comfortable and confident in your life as a follower of Jesus.

There will not be a test, and when all else fails, the answer is "God loves you."

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, Celia
Genishi, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Gary
Kloehn, Karin Kloehn, Larry, Deborah
McGregor, Maddie, Melinda Nelson, Alvar Roy,
Jean Russell, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele,
Stephanie, 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, February 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**

Saturdays of Sisterhood will be in 2 parts in February!

Part One is on Sat. Feb. 7th at 10 AM in Luther Hall.

We will learn & discuss the imagery of the female
God in the Bible.

Part Two is on Sat. Feb. 14th at 8AM to 1 PM-meet in the SMLC parking lot to carpool to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park where we explore how we can view that imagery in nature. Please bring your lunch as we will picnicking before heading back to the church. Entrance fees to the park will be waived as those over the age of 65 are free in the month of February. For those under the age of 65 and do not have a membership, please let know you will be attending as free passes are available. If you need to rent a wheelchair or electric scooter at the park, please discuss with Karin ahead of time, as discounts may be available. Email Karin @karinkupka533@hotmail.com or call 760-415-2525.

Financial Update

End of December 2025 - 100% of Year

Income

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$310,704	\$291,808	90.21%

Expenses

Annual Budget	Actual YTD	% of Budget
\$310,704	\$310,877	96.11%

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



The **Annual Congregational meeting-Pt 2** will be held on **February 8th**, immediately following the worship service in Luther Hall. We will review reports from 2025, vote on the 2026 budget, vote to ratify the change to the constitution regarding the Mutual Ministry Committee, and vote to approve change to the constitution from the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. These are all important items of business for the congregation to start 2026 off correctly, so **please plan to attend**.

Council Update

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

The Council met on January 21 for our regular monthly meeting. The Council accepted and/or approved the submitted minutes and reports as well as reports for December. The Council considered 4 items of business. First, the Council approved the 2026 Budget recommended by the Budget committee and forwarded to the congregation for approval at the February 8th Congregational Meeting. The Council approved the email use policy for all users of email addresses with the domain @sanmarcoslutheran.org. The Council approved the Endowment committee recommendations for the disbursement of income from 2025. Lastly the Council established a Finance committee to advise and make recommendations on items requiring greater input than the Treasurer and bookkeeper alone. As part of the Finance committee approval, the standing members of the committee were established.

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

Social Action



ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

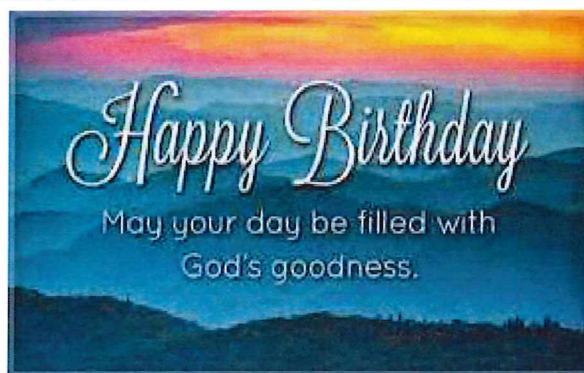
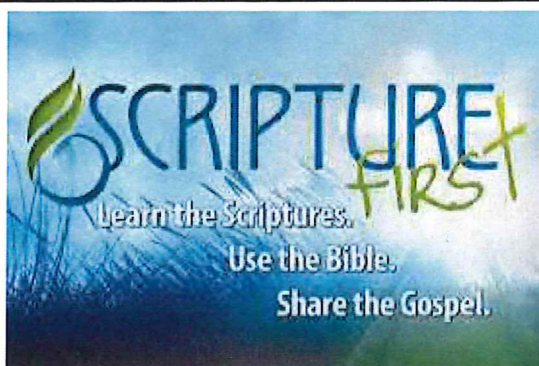
This month we'd love donations of rice (yes, again), condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickle relish, packages of peanut butter and crackers, packages of cheese and crackers, soups (not vegetable). Thank you for whatever part you play in supporting this very active ministry that provides food and a friendly welcome to so many people. If you'd like more information about the Food Pantry, please contact Doris Payne, 760-653-3026.

SACK LUNCHES

On Feb. 15th after church in Luther Hall, your Social Action Committee will be host, making sack lunches for Interfaith. All are welcome and all hands are needed to help feed the homeless.

We would welcome donations of:
jam, snack crackers, juice packs, fruit cups, and bread should be brought that Sunday.
 Thank you for being loving servants in God's Kingdom. If you have any questions contact Diana Arney or other SAC members.

THE GOOD NEWS



Feb 1 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-31
Gospel: Matt 5:1-12

Feb 8 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Isa 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-12 [13-16]
Gospel: Matt 5:13-20

Feb 15 **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

First Reading: Exod 24:12-18
Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel: Matt 17:1-9

Feb 18 **Ash Wednesday**

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10
Gospel: Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb 22 **First Sunday in Lent**

First Reading: Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19
Gospel: Matt 4:1-11

Feb 6 Reece Lott
Feb 7 Zachary Hudlow
Feb 11 Ludette McNichols
Feb 13 Amber Young
Feb 16 Dakota Fawcett
Feb 16 Darrell Young
Feb 19 Greg Giddings
Feb 20 Colin Gastauer
Feb 25 Beda Farrell
Feb 25 Jecoliah Orozco
Feb 26 Steve Sultany

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

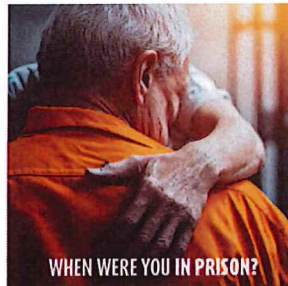
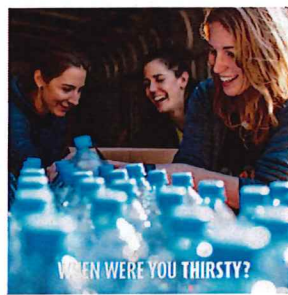
Region 2

Synod2026

40-40-40 LENTEN CHALLENGE



The Lenten Challenge Theme — “Lord, When Did We See You?”



THE CHALLENGE:

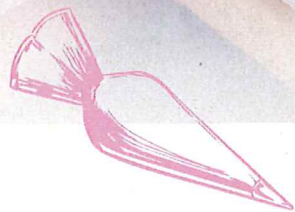
- 6-week Lenten journey
- 4 Lenten Practices
 - Daily Devotion
 - Daily Learning
 - Daily Action
 - Daily Donation

WHY LENT?

- Season of reflection & renewal
- Dependence on God & one another
- Grow into who God calls us to be

**Bragging rights goes to the synod with the most individual registrations!*

Use the QR Code or go to: <https://lentenchallenge.org/> to learn more and sign up!



SMLC CHILDREN'S CENTER

COOKIE DECORATING



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Hosted by: Ann Leong

In-person instruction by: Jennifer Norris @makesbakeskeepsakes

Class Includes:

- 5 cookies
- 3 bags of royal icing
- Take-home box
- In-person instruction

Price:

\$50 per person
30% of proceeds donated
to the school for tandem
trikes

Join us for a fun, hands-on cookie decorating class just in time for Valentine's Day!

RSVP by 2/6, make check payable to SMLCCC



Feb. 27-March 1, 2026



Women's Retreat 2026

**"Listen"— an invitation to listen more deeply to God,
to others, and to yourself**

Want to register?

Registration form available on the SMLC website, can be emailed to you, or you can be filled out on paper (due 02/19)



Cost:

- ▼ **\$250 per person**
- ▼ **\$295 Single room**
- ▼ **\$75 for the day**

pastor@sanmarcoslutheran.org
beth@pa3.com

Luther Glen Farm Retreat Center
39136 Harris Rd.
Oak Glen, CA 92399



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: San Marcos Lutheran Church

When: February 19, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 800-324-9458 and use
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text the word "circle"
to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.



CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

FEB/MARCH 2026



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

We race into February and March forward as we embrace all the special days like Friendship Days, Birth Days, Amazing Race Days, Parent/Teacher Conference Days, St. Patrick Days, ...not to mention all the wonderful things the Spring season brings! Mark your calendar for Spring School Pictures~ they will be held in our beautiful outdoor space in the Children's Creek on Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th~ Here's to a busy, busy few months! Please mark all the important dates~ there are many!

Blessings, Mrs. Leong

Friendship Days

*Wednesday, February 11th and
Thursday, February 12th*

If you would like to bring Valentine cards, please bring **12** in a Ziploc bag, labeled with your child's name on it. Thank you!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

*Thursday, March 12th &
Friday, March 13th*

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held **IN-PERSON**. This is a great time for you to ask questions and get feedback from your child's teacher. They will be going over your child's assessment and share samples of their work. You will receive a date and time of your conference ~ thank you!

Please note: Preschool will NOT be in session on the conference days but we will watch your (enrolled) child for you so you can meet with their teacher. Both parents are highly encouraged to attend!

Amazing Race is Coming!

*Thursday, February 26th &
Friday, February 27th*

11am-12pm

Our Preschool Parents and/or Grandparents are invited to join our children for the **Amazing Race for Education Family Fundraiser** to raise money for 2 new tandem trikes! Parent/Child will rotate through 10 center activities and every child will get a medal for finishing the RACE! So get ready, set, GO to have some fun!

Details to follow...



St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

3/17 (Tues) & 3/18 (Wed)

Wear **GREEN** and dive into...
looking for coins in the creek,
making lemon volcanoes,
tasting Lucky Charms
...and so much more!!

School will be closed on Friday, Feb 13th for Teacher-In-Service Day AND Monday, Feb 16th for President's Day.

We will celebrate March birthdays on Thursday, 3/26 and Friday, 3/27.

Learn  Live  Share  the Love of God

2026

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

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 Sister- LH 6-9pm AA- LH
08 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Congregational Mtg	09 12pm- AA- LH	10 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	11 12pm- AA- LH 130pm- SAC Mtg- CR	12 1030-12pm- Cookie Class- LH 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	13 945-1145a- St Joes- SA 12pm- AA- LH	14 8am-SOS- Safari Park trip 6- 9pm AA- LH
15 10am- Worship Service 11:15- Community time	16 12pm- AA- LH	17 7-9pm- Music Men- LH	18 1130- Disposition of Ashes 12pm- AA- LH 7pm- Ash Wed Service	19 830-430- Lifeline Screens- LH 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 7pm- Choir Practice-SA	27 12pm- AA- LH Women's Retreat- Luther Glen	28 6-9pm AA- LH
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14